

WHACKY VERSE

High demand
As two leaders tussle
It is not about muscle.
Everyone knows
Friends are foes.
Delhi is the big puzzle.

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

on Saturday

US to pause migration from 'third-world countries'
Trump orders freeze after Afghan kills US soldier

P10

Q2 GDP growth trumps tariffs, jumps to 8.2%

Exceeds estimates to touch 6-quarter high; low inflation, strong domestic demand spur growth

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's economic growth rose to a six-quarter high of 8.2% in July-September period, exceeding most estimates by a wide margin, boosted by low inflation, strong domestic demands and government expenditure, the National Statistics Office (NSO) data showed on Friday.

The manufacturing sector posted an impressive 9.1% expansion in the three-month period ended September as against a tepid 2.2% growth recorded in the corresponding period of the last year.

The services sector posted 9.2% growth, led by 10.2% expansion in financial, real estate and professional services. However, agriculture and allied activities posted a moderated growth of 3.5%.

The Indian economy has beaten forecasts in the first two quarters despite tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump administration. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.8% in the April-June quarter. The average growth in the first half of the year stands at 8%.

The Q2 number is much higher than the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7%. Other major institutions had also pegged it in the range of 7 to 7.5%.

Buoyed by the better-than-expected numbers in the first half, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said the full-year growth is likely to be more than 7%, beating the 6.3-6.8% projection given by the Economic Survey.

With this rate of expansion, according to Nageswaran, the economy would cross the \$4-trillion mark in the current financial year. "In the current uncertain global environment, the Indian economy does stand out as a relative oasis of tranquillity, stability and growth," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the GDP growth data very encouraging.

TAIL WINDS

- Average growth in the first half of the year stands at 8%
- The Q2 number much higher than Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 7%
- Manufacturing sector posts impressive 9.1% expansion
- Services sector hits 9.2% growth, led by 10.2% expansion in financial, real estate, professional services

'1st tranche of US trade deal likely by year-end'

India is hopeful of finalising the first tranche of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States by the end of 2025, which will address the issues related to high tariffs, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Friday. **Details on Page 11**

"It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people. Our government will continue to advance reforms and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," Modi said in a post on X.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the growth has been driven by "sustained fiscal consolidation, targeted public investment, and various reforms that have strengthened productivity and improved ease of doing business".

India's nominal GDP in Q2 of 2025-26 is estimated at Rs 85,25 lakh crore against Rs 78.40 lakh crore in the corresponding period of the last year, registering a growth of 8.7%. The real GDP grew by 8.2% to Rs 48.63 lakh crore. The gap between real and nominal GDP, which was 12 percentage points in Q1 of FY23, dropped sharply to 0.5 percentage points in Q2 FY26. **► GDP, Page 5**

India won't bow its head: PM in Udupi

UDUPI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that the new India will neither bow its head nor compromise on the nation's peace and stability, declaring that the country today is fortified with a defence doctrine rooted in the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

Addressing the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme at Sri Krishna Mutt, he said that while the message of Sri Krishna's compassion is conveyed from the Red Fort, it is from the same historic ramparts that the announcement of Mission Sudarshan Chakra is made.

Explaining the concept, he said Mission Sudarshan Chakra involves creating an impenetrable protective wall around

India's key locations and industrial and public sectors.

The prime minister, who was conferred the 'Bharatha Bhagya Vidata' title by Parvaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji said, "If the enemy dares to show audacity, India's Sudarshan Chakra will destroy them."

Recalling the government's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Modi said the swift launch of Operation Sindoor symbolised the resolve of a nation that refuses to remain passive in the face of aggression. He noted that many victims of the attack were from Karnataka. **► Modi, Page 5**
► PM unveils Rama statue in Goa, Page 8

FIRST FOR BENGALURU

Work starts on metro's 1st platform screen doors

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a first for Bengaluru, Namma Metro is set to introduce platform screen doors (PSDs) on the under-construction Pink Line stations and has installed a mockup at MG Road, three officials in the know said.

With civil work nearing completion on the 21.26-km Kalena Agrahara-Nagawara Pink Line corridor, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is undertaking track-laying and systems work, including PSD installation, at the stations.

Platform screen doors/gates are synchronised with train movements as they open only when a train is correctly positioned at the platform. They also prevent passengers from falling or jumping onto the tracks — incidents that have repeatedly occurred in recent times.

In underground stretches, they also help improve climate control by limiting air exchange between stations and tunnels, lowering energy consumption.

Many metro stations in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai have PSDs/PSGs but none of Bengaluru's existing 83 metro stations has them.

The BMRCL recently installed a mockup or replica of the PSD — supplied by subcontractor Panasonic from Chi-

Siddu invites DKS for breakfast talks

CM says High Command asked him to meet his deputy, will abide by top brass orders

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the ongoing power tussle within the ruling Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has invited his deputy DK Shivakumar for breakfast on Saturday as per the directions of the High Command.

"The High Command had telephoned both of us and asked us to meet. So, I called him for breakfast. When he comes, we will discuss. There's no change in my stand, I will stand by what the High Command says. I will say it now, and will reiterate the same tomorrow," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

The chief minister said that both he and Shivakumar had claimed multiple times that they would abide by the directions of the High Command.

Siddaramaiah's comment comes at a

time when it's believed that the High Command may summon both the chief minister and his deputy to Delhi on Sunday to discuss the issue.

When asked if he would go to Delhi, Siddaramaiah said he "would go if called".

The meeting between the two leaders scheduled on Saturday assumes significance as it comes just before the Parliament session beginning on Monday. The Winter Session of the Karnataka Legislature will begin on December 8 in Belagavi.



CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar at an event in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

'Not in a hurry': DKS

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said Friday he was "not in a hurry" to take over from Siddaramaiah as the CM even as both of them are anticipating a call from the High Command to settle the issue. "I'm not in a hurry... not hurrying anything. My party will take a decision," he said. "We'll go to Delhi whenever they call us." **Details on Page 4**

D K Suresh in Delhi

Former MP D K Suresh, brother of D K Shivakumar, arrived in Delhi on Friday and has sought appointment with top Congress leaders, sources said. Suresh will request the leadership to prevail upon Siddaramaiah to hand over the CM post to Shivakumar, sources said. Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge also arrived in the national capital. However, his programme is not known.

CSR: New K'taka policy says 'spend your money in your own state'

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government has prepared a policy requiring companies operating in the state to use their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for developing the existing Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) or establishing new ones.

Currently, there is no such condition for companies to spend their CSR funds in the state itself. The government has decided to bring in the new policy considering the large amount of CSR funds going outside the state from the companies functioning within the state.

"Once the new policy is implemented, it will be mandatory for the companies to spend the CSR within the state," a senior official of the School Education and Literacy Department said.

However, approval for the new CSR policy was deferred by the Cabinet on Thursday so as to make some corrections.

"The draft policy had insisted CSR funds should go to schools through the government. But some suggested that it is better to be handled at the local School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMC) and other school authorities. With those amendments the policy will be placed before the Cabinet scheduled on December 4," the official said. **► CSR, Page 5**

WHY NEW POLICY

- Govt feels large amounts of CSR funds are going outside the state
- Currently, there is no such condition for companies to spend their CSR funds in state itself
- New policy will require companies to spend CSR on KPS
- Officials say despite efforts, some companies refuse to spend CSR funds in state

Russian president to visit India from Dec 4

NEW DELHI, DHNS: President Vladimir Putin of Russia will make a two-day visit to India from December 4 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that is expected to produce significant outcomes, including in the defence sphere. **Details on Page 8**

Airbus issues major A320 recall

PARIS, REUTERS: Due to a flight-control incident, Europe's Airbus said on Friday it was ordering an immediate software change on a significant number of its best-selling A320 family of jets. The move would involve some 6,000 jets, or over half the global fleet.

Hundreds of jets may also have to have hardware changed, leading to weeks out of service. **Details on Page 10**

Kick off into India's football cultures

A sports writer travels across the country to chronicle the game's multiple histories

India is known as a cricket nation, and we often forget that football also runs in its veins.

Football is not just a preserve of our big cities — it thrives on the beaches of Goa, the grounds of Karnataka and Kerala, the hilltops of Mizoram, and the plains of Punjab.

Local tournaments, devoid of professional rigidity, are fought with passion. Victory is not just a matter of personal pride but also a matter of honour for the entire neighbourhood. And every loss is felt collectively.

In today's *Saturday Story*, a sports writer explains how history, culture and terrain determine the many playing styles practised in our country. And how migration carried football traditions to new homes.

It all began when he witnessed an Independence Day Cup tournament in Bengaluru. The journey eventually led him to football strongholds in the remotest corners of the country.

Full story, Page 13

The SATURDAY STORY

Forest land grabbing: Crackdown ordered

DH IMPACT

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday ordered a crackdown on cases of grabbing of forest lands using forged documents.

He had called an emergency meeting following a *DH* report titled 'Karnataka forest dept stares at losing Rs 30k-crore land'. The report noted the department may lose 517 acres due to a court order. **Details on Page 3B**

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BEAUTY WITH A COST

B'luru's misplaced love for glass walls

Minimising glass in construction is essential from a climate perspective, but the government has not framed rules for its fair usage

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

“Every light switched on in Bengaluru, let alone the city's millions of air conditioners, will have an impact on the environment. So, there is a need to build awareness among all, from a layman to builders and senior officers,” says Jagan Kumar, a businessman from East Bengaluru.

Determined not to allow his activism to be short-lived, Kumar filed a petition before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) seeking directions to frame rules restricting the use of glass facades and to take action against buildings in the city with more than 40% of their area covered by glazed facades.

In the petition, he cited a paper by T V Ramachandra and others of the IISc's Energy and Wetlands Group showing that the per capita electricity consumption in the zones dominated by high-rise buildings with glass facades ranges from 14,000 to 17,000 units per year compared to zones with eco-friendly buildings (1300-1500 units/person/year).

In its response, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) submitted that while it issued guidelines in June 2015 limiting glass facade to 40% of the exposed area, “these guidelines are advisory and un-monitorable in nature” and left the adherence to developers.

The tribunal in January 2025 noted that the National Building Code by the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Energy Conservation Building

Code by the Central Pollution Control Board provide a framework to address broader concerns of energy conservation.

However, it set a three-month deadline for the MoEF&CC to constitute a committee comprising stakeholders to develop guidelines for the use of glass facades. “Over 10 months later, nothing has been done. I have written to the authorities, but haven't received a response. I will move the tribunal soon,” Kumar told *DH*.

Quick fix, quick revenue

Suresh Hari, the immediate past secretary of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India-Bengaluru, noted that glass facades are limited to commercial buildings, ranging from regular office space to IT companies.

“Curiously, both the capital cost and maintenance cost of a glass facade are considerably higher than a brick-and-mortar wall with windows. Builders go for it because it's a quick job. Once the work is done, the rent collection begins and allows recovery of all the costs,” he noted.

Many builders are aware that energy-efficient buildings not only cause less harm to the environment but also save money. Big players of the Indian corporate sector follow and reinforce such knowledge. Back in 2023, Infosys released a report, ‘Pioneering Net Zero Buildings’, stating that an integrative design approach, including reducing glass facades, helped reduce annual energy consumption from 25 million kWh to 8 million kWh, saving Rs 10 crore.

Suhail Rahman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CoEvolve Estates, believes the continued love for glass facades was also due to a veritable herd mentality.

“There is no doubt that brick and mortar is the most efficient in terms of energy performance. Though there is a nascent trend among big companies to adopt hybrid measures, much of the industry goes against such trends. Essentially, they are impressed by the glazed looks from the streets of Shanghai and New York. Add to this the idea of early project completion, the circle is complete,” he said.

Kumar noted that the state environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA), which grants environment clearances for buildings with built-up areas up to 20,000 sq metre, had limited glass facades to 40% of the exposed area for a new building in 2016. However, the condition was later removed without explanation, allowing thousands of newer buildings to use glass facades without limitation.

Why excess glass may not suit Bengaluru

- **Climate mismatch:** Glass facades are designed for cold Western climates to trap heat. In Bengaluru's tropical savanna climate, they act as greenhouses, trapping solar radiation and turning interiors into ovens.
- **Loss of natural cooling:** Glass walls eliminate natural ventilation, making the city's famed “pleasant weather” irrelevant indoors.
- **Heat island effect:** Glass facades reflect intense sunlight onto neighbouring buildings and streets, raising the ambient temperature
- **10x power usage:** IISc studies show glass buildings in Bengaluru consume up to 10 times more electricity than conventional buildings due to the air-conditioning load.
- **Water stress:** Glass facades look dirty quickly. Cleaning them requires thousands of litres of water frequently, in a city already stressed for water
- **Glass glare:** Commuters on roads like the Outer Ring Road (ORR) often face blinding glare from glass towers during peak morning/evening hours.
- **Bird collisions:** Reflective glass confuses birds; they see trees reflected in the glass and fly into it at full speed. The Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre in Bengaluru has previously reported bird injuries and deaths caused by glass in the past.

A worker cleaning the glass wall of a skyscraper off Bellary Road in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru's role in state's power security

- Karnataka is likely to witness an energy deficit from 2025-26 to 2034-35, with the existing, planned capacity
- Additional renewable capacity addition has been considered from 2027- 28 onwards, considering the time period for finalising new renewable plants
- Karnataka has likely surplus capacity available in the range of 2150-7500 MW

from June to August of the financial year 2027-28. While this can be shared with other states, the state has to plan for shortages.

- Total shortage of energy by the year 2034-35 is likely to be around 19586 MU. Considering that Bengaluru accounts



for 25% of the current power demand in the state, the impact will be high.

- The shortfall would be maximum during the non-solar hours throughout the year.
- Adopting energy-efficient measures, especially in Bengaluru, will help in reducing the negative impact and build resilience.

food security is well known, will be felt in the near future. Reducing energy consumption through guidelines that have already proven effective is therefore seen as low-hanging fruit.

Some builders believe that the recent emphasis on green building certification and potential incentives may help boost the adoption of energy efficiency measures. Among the several green building certificates is the one issued by the India Green Building Council.

IGBC Bengaluru Chapter co-chair Anup Naik said their Commercial Projects Rating System places strong emphasis on overall building envelope performance, positioning glazing as a critical determinant of energy efficiency, daylight quality, visual comfort, and occupant well-being.

He said the first preference is for natural daylighting, which forms a major scoring avenue within IGBC, requiring 50-75% of regularly occupied spaces to achieve daylight autonomy. The IGBC framework integrates prescriptive benchmarks and real-world lessons to ensure glazing choices reduce cooling loads and enhance daylight. “IGBC recommends maintaining a Window-to-Wall Ratio of ≤ 40% and in cases where higher transparency is desired, insists that projects demonstrate superior envelope performance through better insulation, reduced solar heat gain coefficient and effective shading strategies,” he said, adding that the IGBC looks at the matter holistically and does not discourage use of glass facades.

Climate challenges

In its recent report, Climate Compatible Futures stressed the need to incorporate peak power demand into the design of heat action plans, given the increase in days with higher temperatures. The peak power demand also increases emissions, with the study pointing to a 78.8% decadal increase in Karnataka.

In June this year, the Union government announced a plan to limit air conditioning settings to a minimum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius, to reduce electricity load and refrigerant use.

Interestingly, Karnataka's Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Policy 2022-2027, notified by the government in February 2022, also suggests mandating that air conditioners be set at 24-25 degrees C in all government and public offices. Further, it prescribes amendments to energy conservation building codes to suit regional and local climatic conditions. It recommends introducing the power of inspection of buildings to verify compliance with the law.

Seen from multiple perspectives, energy-efficient green buildings seem to be the need of the hour. An official noted that even retrofitting the old buildings, during renovation works, would help reduce power demand. However, the gap between science and policy persists.

Need for awareness

Divya Davis, a senior analyst at the Climate Mitigation Group at the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), said there is a need to examine the practical implementation of the rules.

“More than the gap between science and policy, we need to take note of the chasm between existing rules and their implementation. There are building codes, such as ECBC, that prescribe energy conservation guidelines, including passive design strategies like high-performing glazing and improved wall-to-window ratios. However, these are not implemented in most of the projects,” she said.

She further pointed to the lack of awareness at the ground level. Many architects and contractors who take up the construction of such buildings may not be aware of the nuances of building codes, she added.



A view of a tech-park near Bellandur, off Outer Ring Road in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

MLA decries footpath misuse, calls for people-centric mobility plan

GBA chief envisions city where everyone can reach workplace within 20 mins

BENGALURU, DHNS

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad on Thursday expressed concern over footpaths being encroached upon by street vendors and religious groups, as well as their misuse as informal parking spaces and garbage dumping spots.

He also highlighted poor co-ordination between agencies, which often results in newly laid roads being dug up within just 15 days.

He was speaking at a panel discussion on ‘Urban Mobility in Bengaluru City: Challenges and Way Forward’ at Audit Division 2025, organised by the Of-

fice of the Accountant General (Audit-1), Karnataka.

He envisioned a city where public transport becomes the preferred mode over personal vehicles, supported by attractive footpaths and cycle tracks in the next five years. He emphasised that all infrastructure plans must factor in the people and vehicles that will be added to India's fastest-growing city in the near future.

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA, envisioned a city where everyone can reach their workplace within 20 minutes. He stressed transport-oriented development through rigorous planning and heavy investment (to the tune of Rs 2-3 lakh crore).

He highlighted the newly redesigned Race Course Road Circle as an example of an improved model for mobility at junctions, with pedestrian tracks, cycle lanes and reduced congestion. He also drew attention to the construction of



Principal Accountant General (Karnataka) Jahangirbadshah Inamdar, MLA Rizwan Arshad and GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao at the panel discussion on Thursday.

toilets designed to meet the needs of differently abled and wheelchair-bound individuals.

Jahangirbadshah Rasul Inamdar, Principal Accountant General (Audit 1), Karnataka, reminded the panel that Bengaluru is a city of aspirations, and any future plan must align with the aspirations of its residents. He explained how CAG audits could assist agencies by identifying key issues affecting the city.

He also pointed out that both the government and audit institutions often work in silos and stressed the need to break

these silos for better integrated functioning.

V R Vachana, Associate Director (Policy), Janaagraha and Jana Urban Space Foundation, spoke about the need for a comprehensive master plan for urban development integrating the work of agencies such as BBMP, BMTCL, BWSSB, Bescom and BMRL.

She highlighted the shortage of engineers, urban planners, in-house designers and financial experts, and stressed the need for all of these to come together under an integrated master plan.

Pattandur Agrahara land: HC bins petition challenging land tribunal order

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court dismissed the petition filed by the state government challenging the Bengaluru South taluk land tribunal's order passed in 1980 relating to certain pieces of land located at Pattandur Agrahara in KR Puram Hobli.

The Revenue Department, in this petition filed in 2018, had claimed the land as lake-bed area and was encroached upon.

In its order December 27, 1980, the Land Tribunal had passed an order re-granting 11 acres 20 guntas of land in Sy No 54 at Pattandur Agrahara in favour of H B Munivenkatappa (since dead and represented by his legal representatives). The state argued that the land in question forms part of “Kere Angala” or tank bed and therefore, the Land Tribunal could not have conferred occupancy rights or could not

have re-granted the lands. Namma Whitefield Residents Welfare Association Federation, an NGO, also supported the state government in this petition. The association submitted that a public property in the nature of a water tank should not be permitted to be usurped.

On the other hand, the counsel for Munivenkatappa's representatives argued that the lower appellate court, after a thorough inquiry regarding the application filed by Munivenkatappa in Form Number 7, under Section 48-A(1) of the Karnataka Land Reforms Amendment Act, and the orders passed by the Land Tribunal, had negated the contention that the land in question is part of “tank bed”.

It was further argued that in Pattandur Agrahara village there were only two tanks or water bodies, as found in the revenue records, and they are in survey numbers 85 and

124 of Pattandur Agrahara village.

After perusing the materials on record, Justice R Devdas noted that the lower appellate court had found that the encumbrance certificates reveal sale deeds executed in respect of the land in question commencing from the year 1927 and that the survey records never recorded the existence of water tank or tank bed.

“These facts reveal that at no point of time the revenue authorities or the State raised any question on the sale transactions and maintenance of the revenue records in favour of the purchasers, on the ground that the land is part of a tank bed. Further, the lower appellate court has found from the records that in Sy number 54 survey sketches are available from the year 1958 and it was never recorded as a water tank,” Justice Devdas said.

The court further observed

that there is a delay of nearly 20 years in filing the petition after the decision of the lower appellate court (civil court).

“The decision of the lower appellate court was rendered on 17.12.2008. Even otherwise, there is a delay of nearly 20 years in filing this writ petition, raising a challenge to the order of the Land Tribunal dated 27.12.1980, from the date of the judgment of the lower appellate court. Moreover, the State and its authorities have taken a chance in preferring Regular Second Appeal before this court and by filing a Special Leave Petition before the Apex Court. If this writ petition is entertained, it would amount to affording a second chance to the petitioner-State and its authorities to re-agitate the same issue. As reiterated again and again, the law of limitation is applicable to the state like any other person and no exception can be carved out for the state.”

KSR Yeshwantpur **SMVT STATION** Cantonment KR Puram

Amenities, like toilets, not well maintained and platforms littered with debris, showing signs of wear and neglect, including cracks and potholes with unpleasant smell

City’s ‘most-modern’ rail terminal: High on looks, low on upkeep

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) Bengaluru Railway Station is the most modern railway facility in Karnataka, designed to alleviate congestion at the city’s older train stations and upgrade the overall railway infrastructure.

Construction of the station began in 2014, but its opening was postponed due to design issues and the Covid-19 pandemic. It finally launched commercial operations on June 6, 2022. SMVT is Bengaluru’s first fully air-conditioned railway terminal, completed with a budget of Rs 314 crore.

Currently, construction on the premises has resulted in significant dust accumulation. A three-floor building is being constructed as part of the station, and the foundation work is currently in progress. The ground floor will feature a booking office, the first floor will house both common and ladies’ waiting halls, and the second floor will have retiring rooms and dormitories. About Rs 17 crore is being spent on the project. A fourth pit line is also being constructed for train maintenance.

Poor maintenance

Although the station offers plenty of space with seating and charging points, many passengers are opting to rest on the floors in the entrance

and waiting areas, leaving many chairs in a corner unused.

Claimed to be built to international standards, the station features a well-appointed food court, baggage scanners at the entrance, escalators, air-conditioning

and restrooms. However, its maintenance falls short of the standards expected at a modern terminal. The baggage scanners seem largely cosmetic, as passengers routinely enter with their luggage without any checks, while security personnel are often distracted by their phones. Passengers also shared several instances of faulty escalators at the train station.

Amenities like toilets are poorly maintained, and the platforms are littered with debris, showing signs of wear and neglect, including cracks and potholes, along with an unpleasant smell. Train departures have been delayed significantly, with some trains late by over four hours.

In May 2023, gusty winds



The station has seven platforms.
DH PHOTO/B/K JANARDHAN

Connectivity issues

The nearest metro station, Swamy Vivekananda Road, is about 2.7 km away. However, reaching SMVT Bengaluru from this metro station by cab or auto can be challenging, as many auto drivers tend to overcharge, and app-based ride services struggle to provide consistent rides. Public transportation options from the railway station are limited and unreliable, with only a few BMTC bus routes and metro feeders available right outside the station. Although there are prepaid autos and cabs, they are also known for their tendency to overcharge.

tore off part of the false ceiling and roof panels from the terminal, exposing shoddy construction. “There is no point building a fancy station when none of the amenities work properly. The restrooms at the station are some of the work I have witnessed in the city. Once, there was overflowing dirty water in one of the restrooms, and the staff was barely bothered,” said Rushitha, a passenger.

Theft poses another serious problem at SMVT Bengaluru. A shopkeeper on Platform 3 reported frequent theft incidents, along with missing persons cases. Passengers have also raised concerns about the increasing number of beggars in and around the station premises.

STATE OF STATIONS

B’luru-Belagavi spl train for Xmas

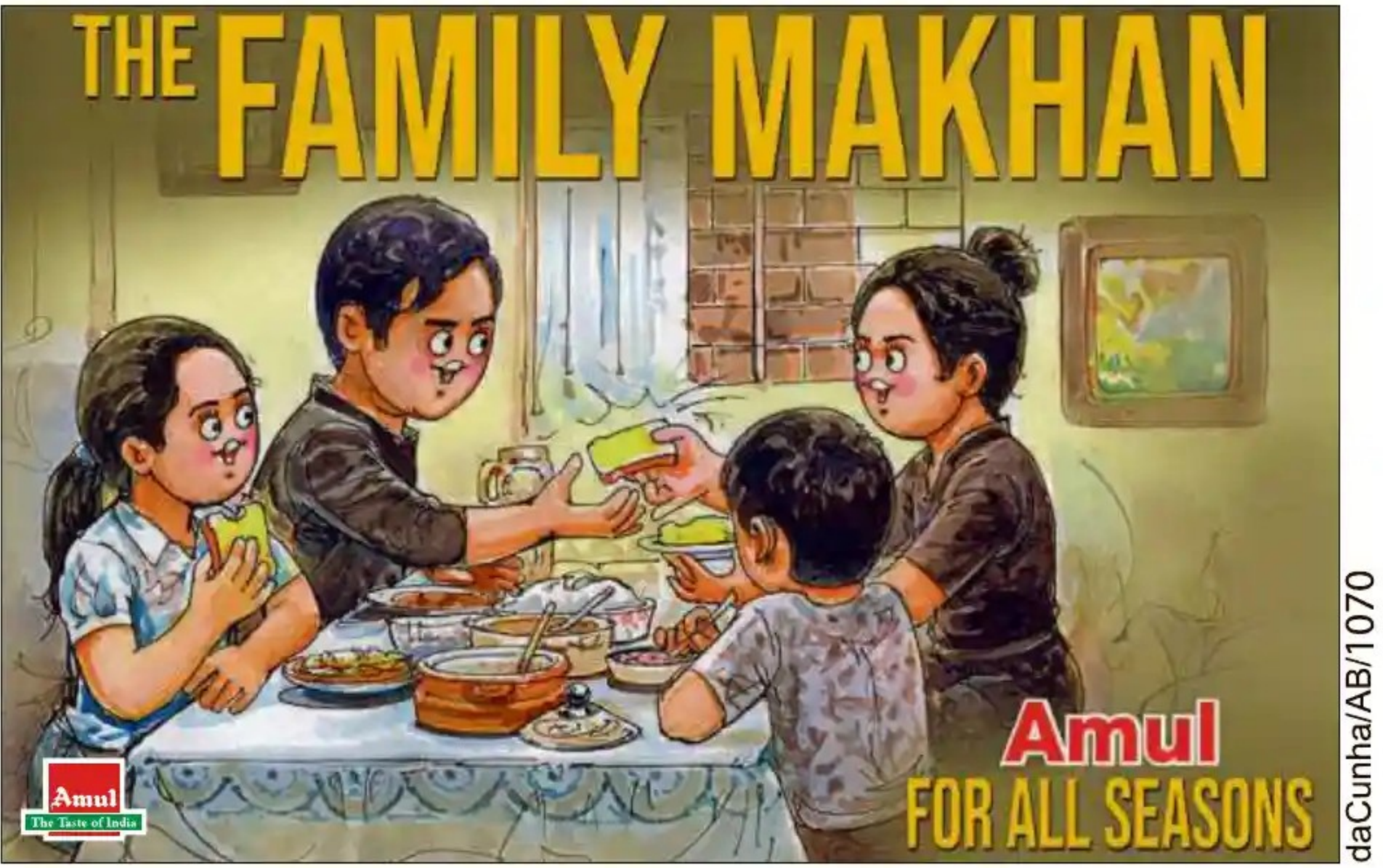
BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate a one-trip special express train between SMVT Bengaluru and Belagavi to cater to the extra rush of passengers around Christmas.

Train number 06503 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 7 pm on December 24 and reach Belagavi at 8.25

am the next day.

In the return direction, train number 06504 will leave Belagavi at 5.30 pm on December 28 and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 5 am the following day.

The train will stop at Tumakuru, Arsikere, Birur, Davangere, Harihar, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad, Alnavar, Londa and Khanapur.



Pvt firm reports data loss in ransomware attack

BENGALURU, DHNS: A private company in Bengaluru has allegedly been hit by a cyber-attack, rendering its data inaccessible.

The ransomware attack occurred on November 21 against Enan Tech Private Limited. East Cybercrime Police registered the FIR on November 26, following a complaint by Abhishek Anigol, 29, the data protection officer of the company.

“The company is engaged inter alia in providing a technology platform to render payment solutions related to electronic payments, collections, and payouts to various business organisations in coordination with banking merchants,” Anigol was quoted as saying in the FIR.

He told the police that on November 20, the company’s data was being migrated from a third-party cloud service provider, Digiko Solutions LLP, to their in-house servers.

“On November 21, at approximately 3.30 am, our in-house server located at the office premises in MG Road was unauthorisedly accessed/hacked using ransomware by unknown persons. The breach was first noticed at 6.55 am by the team of Digiko Solutions LLP, who were handling the data migration,” Anigol said.

“Upon receiving their intimation, our team immediately switched off all systems and servers to prevent further damage. Thereafter, our internal team commenced an investigation to ascertain the de-

tails of the breach. At around 2 pm, the team conclusively determined that our servers had been attacked with ransomware, and our data had been encrypted and rendered inaccessible,” he added.

The complainant said that they also found a ransom note on the server: “The files on your server have been encrypted and stolen. You must pay to decrypt the files to prevent them from being published online. Contact me by email for all necessary instructions: gromoboxi@outlook.com.”

The company approached the police after reporting first to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). An investigation is underway.

Free consultation camp for differently abled

BENGALURU, DHNS: Namma Hospital, in partnership with Vydehi Superspeciality Hospital (VSH), is organising a free multidisciplinary consultation camp titled ‘Where Every Ability Finds Hope’ at Vydehi Superspeciality Hospital, Vittal Mallya Road, from December 1 to 6, between 11 am and 2 pm.

The camp will offer free consultations across eight specialities: Neurology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, ENT, Ophthalmology, Psychology, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, and Speech Therapy.

It is open to people of all ages with physical disabilities, psychological and behavioural concerns, developmental and intellectual disabilities, sensory disabilities, and neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Attendees can walk in or pre-register. Nursing and social work teams will assist participants throughout the camp. Those who attend will receive a VSH Privilege Card for continued care and benefits.

For registration, call +91 63610 73342 or the appointment line 1800 309 1001. Pre-registration and walk-in options are available.

Wife, lover held for murdering husband

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Madanayakanahalli police have cracked the case of a charred unidentified body found near NICE Road at Gangondanahalli recently by arresting three accused, including the wife of the deceased.

The victim was identified as Basavaraju (28), a native of Yadgir. The police have arrested his wife Sharanamma (25), her lover Veerabhadra (19) and his associate Anil. All three are daily wage earners.

A senior police officer said that Sharanamma had hatched the murder plot as her husband opposed her relationship with Veerabhadra.

Basavaraju and Sharanamma lived in a rented house at Tigalarapalya. Veerabhadra, who worked at a nearby construction site, frequently interacted with the couple. Over time, Sharanamma and Veerabhadra developed an illicit relationship and had grown extremely close.

On Friday, while Basavaraju was asleep after consuming alcohol, Sharanamma called Veerabhadra home. The duo first smashed a stone on his head before strangling him with a rope. To dispose of the body, Veerabhadra sought help from his friend Anil, who arrived with his car.

Late at night, after ensuring the neighbourhood was asleep, they wrapped the body in old clothes and stuffed it into a sack. Carrying one litre of petrol, Anil drove them to an isolated area in Gangondanahalli, where they burnt the body in an attempt to destroy evidence.

Madanayakanahalli police had initially registered a case of an unidentified burnt body. Through investigation, they later identified the victim and arrested the accused late on Thursday night.

All three have been taken into police custody for further investigation, and the car has been seized.



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Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

CBC 23101/13/0009/2536

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Siddaramaiah endowment award for journos Sushila Subrahmanya, Neela

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Women Journalists Association (KWJA) hosted the Siddaramaiah Endowment Award Ceremony and a special lecture program at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, celebrating the contributions of two distinguished women journalists.

Veteran journalist Sushila Subrahmanya, 91, editor of the English fortnightly magazine 'The Southern Economist', and Neela M H Chief Sub-Editor of Prajavani, Bengaluru, were jointly conferred the award, which carries a prize money of Rs 25,000.

Sushila Subrahmanya was recognised for single-handedly running the prestigious economic magazine for 41 years, a publication that has featured columns by luminaries like former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Neela M H was lauded for her extensive work across reporting and editing, particularly for shedding light on critical naxal issues as a Chikkamagaluru district reporter and handling the Pra-



Awardees Neela M H and Sushila Subrahmanya with Justice Nagamohan Das, senior journalist Pushpa Girimaji, CM media adviser K V Prabhakara and others at Siddaramaiah Endowment Award ceremony, in Bengaluru on Friday.

javani supplements 'Bhumika' and 'Shikshana'. Speaking at the ceremony, CM Media Adviser K V Prabhakara highlighted the idea behind the award, noting the lack of a woman journalist among the recent Rajyotsava awardees. Justice Nagamohan Das, who also addressed the gathering, stressed the need for women journalists to fight for their due share and emphasised the importance of professionalism and ethics for the new generation entering the field.

The special lecture was delivered by senior journalist

Pushpa Girimaji, who focused on the impact of digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) on the media landscape. Girimaji discussed the 'democratisation of news' brought by social media platforms like YouTube and WhatsApp, while also cautioning against the dual challenges of fake news and the AI-facilitated abuse, such as deep-fake videos, particularly targeting women journalists.

KWJA president Padma Shivamogga, members Manjushri M Kadakola, Vanishree J N and other office-bearers were present.

2 new police stations added to B'luru commissionerate

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has officially expanded the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru City Police (BCP), incorporating two key stations previously under the Bengaluru District Police.

The newly added Madanay-

akanahalli and Rajanakunte police stations, formerly part of Nelamangala and Doddaballapur sub-divisions, will now fall under the city's North-West Division (Peenya sub-division).

This integration brings to-

tal number of law and order police stations in the city to 116 and traffic police stations to 53. The move is aimed at streamlining administration and improving crime response in the newly absorbed areas.

High court restrains cutting of trees on Jnanabharathi campus

Seeks details of trees already cut and translocated

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court on Friday passed a restraint order, prohibiting cutting of trees in the bio-park situated inside Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha also sought details of the trees already cut and relocated.

The bench was hearing the PIL filed by Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust and Parvathi Srimam, a resident of Bengaluru. The petitioners claim that the

campus faces imminent ecological threat due to large-scale diversion of its forest lands for multiple construction projects, including the PM-USHA Project, Ambedkar Theme Park, UVCE new campus proposal, and buildings for external institutions such as the Council of Architecture. On November 21, the bench had ordered notice in the petition.

During the hearing on Friday, the advocate for the petitioners submitted that certain trees have been translocated in the campus. It was further



submitted that one of the respondent authorities has even issued a public notice for cutting 350 trees. The division bench orally observed that while nothing can be done as far as the trees already cut and relocated, and directed the authorities, around 40 respondents, including the Bangalore University, Greater Bengaluru Authority, the state government and others, not to cut any trees.

The petition stated that Bangalore University has sought permission to cut trees in the BR-2 area measuring about 6.5 acres

to implement the PM-USHA Project, funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC). This action threatens an ecologically evolved area that cannot be naturally regenerated once destroyed, the petitioners stated. According

New proposal to fell 352 trees on BU campus

A fresh public notice issued by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) says that the Registrar, Council of Architecture, New Delhi, had proposed for the removal of another 352 trees.

The trees are spread across two acres on the campus. The removal of trees was required for the construction of the proposed State of Art Centre of Excellence Building, the notice stated.

Recently, the Bangalore

University had proposed translocation of 54 trees and felling of 138 trees to implement the PM-USHA Project, funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The proposal had received criticism from the public and environmentalists and eventually a PIL was filed in the High Court. On Friday, the high court restrained the authorities from cutting any trees in the bio park situated inside Jnanabharathi campus.

to the petitioners, despite deliberations by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, which held a special meeting on June 26, 2025, and recommended

that the Jnanabharathi campus be declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site, no further steps have been taken to issue a formal notification.

Bengaluru airport to get new ATC tower by 2027

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is set to get a new air traffic control (ATC) tower in 2027 to handle the airport's growing traffic.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, issued a tender for the same earlier this week. BIAL has invited expressions of interest for design and development

The existing ATC tower has been operational since the airport was established in 2008. "The existing tower has got old. It requires maintenance, and to do so, it will need to be shut down. So, the new structure is necessary. We're expecting it to be completed in the next two years," shared a reliable source. BIAL will construct the new tower for the Airports Authority of India, which man-

ages the ATC.

The upgraded tower is expected to enhance operational safety and improve weather adaptability.

The new tower is aimed at accommodating facilities for future requirements as airport operations expand - with projects such as the second phase of Terminal 2 and third terminal. KIA is currently the busiest airport in South India.

PU lecturers protest govt 'interference' in administration

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lecturers from state-run Pre-University (PU) colleges assembled at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday to rail against government interference in the administration of their institutions.

The Department of PU Education recently issued a circular on the appointment of officials from the Department of State Education Research and Training to oversee administration of government PU colleges ostensibly for the compilation of data. This move on the part of the department has upset the lecturers, prompting them to stage a demonstration to express their opposition.

The protesting lecturers further claimed that the department had proposed an amendment to the Karna-

taka General Services (PU Education) (Recruitment) Rules, 2013, which, if passed would require them to teach class nine and ten students as well. Pointing out that the cadre and recruitment rules for school and PU college teachers were separate, they said, "High-school teachers are classed under 'Group C' in the rules, while PU lecturers are under 'Group B'. This proposed amendment will create more problems."

The Karnataka State PU Lecturers' Association also urged the department against giving permission for new private colleges for the next three years. The association also demanded disbursement of remuneration for teachers for the evaluation of the 2025 second PU exam answer scripts.

Vajra weekly pass now Rs 50 cheaper

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BMTTC has reduced the price of its Vajra weekly bus pass

by Rs 50. The price is Rs 700 (excluding toll charges). The BMTTC will introduce a new non-AC metro feeder bus route on December 1. The bus MF-40B will ply from Jnanabharathi Metro Station to Bharath Nagar 2nd Stage via Vidyanikethana Public School, Muddaanapalya Junction, Bharath Nagar 1st Stage and Byadarahalli.

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

This has reference to the **ANRF's advertisement Notice No.2/2025** which was published in Employment News dated 25-31 October, 2025 vide which applications were invited from eligible candidates for filling up of following posts:

	Post	Level in pay matrix	No. of posts	Method of recruitment
1	2	3	4	5
(i)	Scientist-D	Level-12 in Pay Matrix (Rs.78800-209200)	02 (UR-2)	Deputation/ Direct Recruitment
(ii)	Scientist-C	Level-11 in Pay Matrix (Rs.67700-208700)	05* (UR-2 OBC-01 SC-01 ST-01)	Direct Recruitment

**one post is also reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) candidates out of the five posts of Scientist- C.*

- In this regard, it is informed that the last date for receipt of applications for the said posts is extended as mentioned below:

	From	To
Candidates from remote areas	29.12.2025 till 05.30 PM	28.01.2026 till 05.30 PM
Candidates residing in India other than remote areas	15.12.2025 till 05.30 PM	14.01.2026 till 05.30 PM

*** Deputationists :**

- (i) Candidates who have applied earlier against the aforesaid advertisement published in Employment News dated 25-31 October, 2025, are requested to apply online through ANRF portal recruitment.anrf.gov.in.
- (ii) New applicants are requested to apply online through ANRF portal recruitment.anrf.gov.in. Physical application along with enclosures should also reach ANRF on before the closing date of receipt of application.

*** Direct recruits:**

- (i) Candidates who have applied earlier against the aforesaid advertisement published in Employment News dated 25-31 October, 2025, are requested to apply online through ANRF portal recruitment.anrf.gov.in
- (ii) New applicants are requested to apply online through ANRF portal recruitment.anrf.gov.in. **Physical application along with enclosures should also reach ANRF on before the extended closing date of receipt of application.**

- All Other contents/terms & conditions contained the detailed advertisement in respect of the said posts, shall remain unchanged.**

CBC 36130/11/0006/2526

Sd/-
(Director)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, MUMBAI
वैद्युतिक मापन उपकरण अभिकल्प संस्थान, मुंबई

Government Certificate Course on
AI POWERED DIGITAL MARKETING & E-COMMERCE

Course Timing
10.00 AM TO 1.00 PM
Duration: 4 Days

COURSE FEES : RS. 5000/- + 18% GST

Course Contents: AI Tools for Smart Digital Marketing, Gen AI for daily business tasks, Social media content Creation with AI, Email automation tools, Marketing Strategy building for small businesses, Organic & paid promotion, E-Commerce Online Business Setup, Introduction to E-Commerce platforms - Amazon, GeM, Tendering, ONDC, Overview on creating social media campaign, Business Process Automation, Bonus session on National Initiatives MSME Govt Schemes.

Who can attend: Any student / professional/ Entrepreneurs with basic computer knowledge should join the course.

After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Scan QR Code For Registration & Fees Payment

Contact: 8879774348, 7738184063, 9920554528

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.No. (1) E-Tender No. 84-ST-TENDER-2025, Date: 22.11.2025

Work: "Provision for compatibility of existing Datacom equipment in connection with IP-MPLS work over the Bilaspur Division of SECR."

Tender Value: Rs. ₹ 3,66,12,361.88/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty-Six Lakh Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One and Eighty-Eight Paise Only).

EMD: ₹ 3,33,100/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Only).

Submission of Tender: Up to 15.00 Hrs. on 15.12.2025

The complete information of above e-tender notice is available over website <https://www.iweps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

DSTE/CIC
CPR/10/489 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
(f) South East Central Railway (e) @secrail

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

Publication of Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/162/2025 dated 24.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl.No.	Item of Work	Approx.Value
1.	Proposed Yard Remodelling work at Amritapura Station yard & Y-Connection to MMEC from Amritapura Station for Civil works like extension of Minor Bridges, RUB, Construction of Minor Br, FOB, High Level Platform, Goods Platform, Miscellaneous, Station Building including Electrical Genl. and TRD at Amritapura yard. (COMPOSITE WORK) (Tender Ref. No. JRU-BAY-Amritapura -YARD)	Rs. 81,85,98,983/-
2.	Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for (1) Tumkur-Chitradurga-Davanagere New Line Project Construction of New BG Line between Chainage 66/400 & Chainage 90/000 (23.60 Km) including Civil, Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification and General Electrical works between Tavarkere (Excl) & Hiriyur (Excl) stations on Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. (2) Tumkur- Chitradurga Davanagere New Line Project Construction of New Railway Line between Chainage 90/000 and Chainage 130/375 (40.375 Km) Civil, Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification and General Electrical works between Hiriyur (Incl.) & Palavvanahalli (Incl) stations on Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. (Tender Ref. No. PMS-TK-DVG-03)	Rs. 12,91,74,728/-
3.	Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Independent Quality Assurance & Audit Agency for Providing Independent Quality Assurance Audit Services for PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN ON SWR/ Construction. (Tender Ref. No. Quality-Assurance-Audit)	Rs. 12,91,74,728/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.12.2025**

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 08.01.2026**

For details log on : www.iweps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works, Bengaluru Cantonment,
PUB/688/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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**WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY**
(An Autonomous Institution under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) 33, General Mahadeo Singh Road, DEHRA DUN - 248001

No. Institute Position/RA/2021/II/Estt Dated: 18.11.2025

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited by the Director, WIHG for the following positions on purely temporary and contractual basis.

Sl. No.	Name of Position	Number of Position
01	Research Associate	04

The detailed advertisement containing details of educational qualification, fellowship, age limits, interview date etc., and prescribed application form is available on our website www.wihg.res.in Interested candidates can download the details from our website.

Director, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology reserves the right to reject any or all the advertisement without assigning any reason.

CBC 36122/12/0005/2526 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002

Letter No.-kha.up.ni.-24/chini-04/2024-1929
Date : 28-11-2025

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender Reference No. Kha.Up.Ni.-24(Chi.Vi.Yo.)-04/2024-1752 Dated:17-10-2025 (GeM Bid No.-GEM/2025/B/6804598 Dt.17-10-2025) for supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As per FSSAI Notms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 through e-Tender Followed by e-Reverse Auction on Gem Platform with reference to Directorate Letter No. -1754 Dated 17-10-2025 PR No. 364478 is hereby cancelled on account of unavoidable reasons.

Fresh tender will be invited soon.

Sd/-
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

PR 367275 (Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs)25-26"D

**National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)**
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)

HQ: 1st & 2nd Floor, Tower-A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
Website: www.nhidcl.com, Email: recruitment.nhidcl@nhidcl.com

RECRUITMENT NOTICE NO. 02/2025

NHIDCL invites **ONLINE** applications from eligible candidates for the following posts at **E2 Grade (IDA pattern)** on **Direct Recruitment** basis:

s. No.	Post (Cadre)	No. of Posts	IDA Pay Scale	Upper Age	Essential Qualification
1	Deputy Manager (HR& Admn)	03 (UR-03)	₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000	Not exceeding 34 years	• Bachelor's Degree, and • Cleared Civil Services Mains - Written Exam 2024 and appeared for Personality Test (Interview)
2	Deputy Manager (Land Acquisition)	03 (UR-03)	₹ 50,000-3%-1,60,000	Not exceeding 34 years	• Bachelor's Degree, and • Cleared Civil Services Mains - Written Exam 2024 and appeared for Personality Test (Interview)

Relaxations in age limit: As per applicable Rules.

Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree, and must have cleared Civil Services Mains - Written Exam 2024 and appeared for Personality Test (Interview).

Selection: Based on Percentile Score in UPSC Civil Services Examination Mains 2024 (Pratibha Setu).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Opening date of Online Application :** **01.12.2025 (1000 Hrs)**
- Closing date of online application :** **30.12.2025 (1700 Hrs)**

For detailed advertisement including reservations, job responsibilities, benefits, and general instructions, visit www.nhidcl.com or refer to the full Recruitment Notice published in Employment News dated 29th Nov., 2025.



General Manager (Recruitment)

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION
CBC 37112/12/0005/2526

**PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Tender Cell Department
Tender Notice - New Work

TENDER SALE DATE :- 29-11-2025 TO 23-12-2025 AFTERNOON 2.30 PM **Advt. No. 3/1367 Date : 28/11/2025**
TENDER ACCEPTED DATE :- 29-11-2025 TO 23-12-2025 AFTERNOON 3.30 PM.
TECHNICAL BID OPENING PROCESS DATE :- 24/12/2025 AFTERNOON 3.30 PM

SR. NO.	TENDER NO.	DEPARTMENT NAME	WORK DISRIPTION	TENDER SET PRICE RS	ESTIMATED PRICE RS	EMD RS.	WORK PERIOD	TENDER RELATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1	PMC/VEHICLE/2025/169	VEHICLE DEPARTMENT	Hiring of 15 BRC/Hywa vehicles of 25 Cub Mtr capacity for Transportation of MSW from MSW Transfer stations in the city for a period of two years	29679	129000000	645000	2 YEAR/TILL THE TENDER AMOUNT EXHAUSTS	MR.Nitin Shinde 9689931703 MR. Rajendra Tidke 9689986476

- Govt approved /P.M.C. approved experienced Tenderer needed for this work. (Pre qualification conditions are given in tender set)
- Tems & conditions & other details for completing the above work are mentioned in Tender set and tender set is available on www.mahatenders.gov.in Tender sale and acceptance are to be done by online and 2 pockets only
- All information of tender is available on above mentioned website

Sd/-
SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER
MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT
PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION



Minister orders crackdown on forest land grabbing cases

Blasts advocates for delay which would have cost 517 acre forest land

DH IMPACT

BENGALURU, DHNS

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday ordered a crackdown on cases where forged documents were allegedly being used to grab forest land and expressed shock at government advocates for failing to bring the Forest Department to speed up on key cases.

The minister had called an emergency meeting of senior officers in the afternoon following a report by *DH* under the title, 'Karnataka forest dept stares at losing Rs 30k crore land'.

The report noted that the department may lose 517 acres of reserved forest in BM Kaval because it got access to a high court order ruling the land in favour of one M B Nemane Gowda.

Forest dept stares at losing Rs 30k-cr land

Officials learnt of 3-month-old HC order only 2 days ago

DH EXCLUSIVE

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The forest department is staring at the possibility of losing 517 acres of reserved forest in south Kengeri, the best patch of greenery in Bengaluru, thanks to the delay in getting a court judgment of the Karnataka High Court. The commercial value of the land is estimated between Rs 30,000 crore and Rs 35,000 crore.

On August 13, 2025, one M B Nemane Gowda filed a writ petition in the high court claiming that he was grantee of 532 acres in survey numbers 4, 4B, 50, 51 and 52 of BM Kaval land in Kengeri Hobli.

Authorities to enter Gowda's name in the revenue records within 90 days (by November 29).

Forest officials said they were unaware of these developments till Wednesday. With court, the officials are now scrambling to get legal opinion on the matter.

Documents accessed by *DH* shows that KP Yoganand, additional advocate general, recommended filing of an appeal.

Petitioner Nemane Gowda had filed 10 other petitions in the high court pertaining to lands in Chikmagalur and Hassan, while an assistant commissioner booked into yet another case had ordered officials to file a case against him for forgery. **Page 30**

A screenshot of the report 'Forest dept stares at losing Rs 30k-cr land' published in DH on November 28.

Appeal yet to be filed

The 90-day deadline (as prescribed by the Limitations Act) to file an appeal against the High Court order in WP 25067 of 2025 -- which ruled the forest land in favour of an individual -- expired on Friday.

Sources, however, said the Forest Department was in touch with the office of the Advocate General and an appeal with a request for condonation of delay would be filed in the next two or three days.

During the three-hour-long meeting, Khandre was briefed about the matter in detail.

Expressing surprise at the high court giving judgment in the matter within 17 days after the writ petition was filed, the minister directed officials to file an appeal immediately. Notably, the land was declared a

apply to him? Officials should ensure these details are submitted before the court," he said.

Advocates pulled up

Khandre pulled up the government advocates for not providing information about crucial cases until the last minute.

He also questioned why they were ruling cases as 'not fit for appeal' even when they knew that the cases merited an appeal.

The minister asked officials to focus on the six or seven districts where encroachments and land-grabbing attempts were rampant due to the high value of the land. He advised the additional advocate general to appoint efficient advocates to argue the case.

"There appears to be a larger conspiracy to grab forest land by creating forged documents. Cases should be booked against those trying to steal government land," he said.

Khandre also questioned why a case was not registered against Nemane Gowda, though a tahsildar had ordered officials to do it in a case where forged documents were allegedly used to grab land.

"Action should be taken against such officials and those helping the land grabbers," he said.

FIR against Viveknagar cops over alleged custodial death

BENGALURU, DHNS

A suspected custodial death has triggered serious allegations against Viveknagar police personnel after a 23-year-old accused was found dead at a rehabilitation centre.

Based on a complaint by the deceased's family, Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case and transferred the investigation to the CID, citing custodial violence allegations.

The deceased has been identified as Darshan alias Singamalai, a resident of Sonnenahalli who was involved in petty cases in the area.

A senior police officer said that Viveknagar police picked up Darshan on November 15 after he triggered panic in the church premises by flashing a lethal weapon and he also assaulted police personnel during the detention. However, the police had not registered a case against him as the family

Mother demands justice

Deceased Darshan's mother Adhilakshmi has demanded justice and further said that "He was fine when he was taken to the rehabilitation centre, only unable to walk properly. I need to know what happened to him. There were marks of beating on his body."

appealed that he was under the influence of drugs and requested that he be admitted to a rehabilitation centre. He was being treated for 11 days. The FSL report is yet to be collected.

Darshan's mother, Adhilakshmi, alleged he was kept in illegal custody for three days and was allegedly subjected to assault during this period.

After she pleaded with the police not to send him to jail, officers reportedly promised to admit him to a rehabilitation facility instead.

Darshan was shifted to the Unity Rehabilitation Centre near Nelamangala on November 16. However, the family received a call from the rehab centre informing them that Darshan had succumbed. Doctors told her that they found injury marks on his body, raising suspicion of assault.

C K Baba, the superintendent of police, Bengaluru District, said that following these findings, Madanayakanahalli police registered an FIR under: BNS 103(1) - Murder, BNS 127(3) SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Section 3(2)(v) and the FIR names Viveknagar Inspector, police constable, and two others.

The DG&IGP transferred the case to CID for further investigation.

400 kids affected by HIV to take part in annual run

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city-based RISHI Foundation will host 'Footprints 2025', the annual 5K and 10K run at Camilliam Pastoral Health Centre, Sarjapur Main Road, on November 30 at 6 am, a day before World AIDS Day (observed on December 1).

Nearly 400 children living with or affected by HIV, from across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, will participate in the event. The run will support their Positive Running programme.

The bibs for the event can be collected at Upasana, St Camillus Study House, Tavarekere, between 11 am and 6 pm on November 29, Saturday.

To register, visit rishifoundation.in/footprints-2025/ and for details, call 93447 36558.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Department of Horticulture: Karnataka Rajyotsava and Children's Day Flower Show; Band Stand, Cubbon Park; 6 am to 7 pm.

Ascent PU College: Ascent Kannada Kalarava - Youth Poets' Meet; Hesaraghatta Main Road; 9 am.

High Court of Karnataka: Regional Conference on 'Improving Legal Norms through Technology: Challenges and Opportunities'; Karnataka Judicial Academy, High Grounds; 9 am.

Government First Grade College and Kannada Sahitya Parishat's KR Puram Assembly Constituency Unit: Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations; KR Puram; 9.30 am.

BGS PU College: 2025-26 Bengaluru Division-Level Cultural Competitions; Mahalakshipuram; 10 am.

Justice Shivaraj V Patil Foundation: Shivashri Award Presentation; Kings Court, Palace Road, Gate No 5; 10.30 am.

Directorate of Child Protection: Adoptive Parents' Meet; Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park; 10.30 am.

All India Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, Bengaluru Urban District Unit: Karnataka Rajyotsava; Hangal Kumaraswamy Auditorium, All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, Ballari Road; 10.30 am.

Nature Cure: Lecture on 'Drug-Free Nature Cure' by Dr N N Nanjesh Koppa; Regency Institute of Sports and Culture; Agrahara Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road; 10.35 am and 6.30 pm.

Karnataka Arya Ediga Women's Association: 36th All Members' Meeting; Students' Hostel, Karnataka Arya Ediga Women's Association, Rajiv Gandhi Circle, Seshadripuram; 11 am.

Internal Security Division, Karnataka State Police: Inter-Unit Annual Sports Meet; Armed Police Training School, Yelahanka; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Karnataka Pradesh Banjara (Lambani) Seva Sangha: Vande Mataram anniversary and

Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations; Banjara Bhavan, Vasanthanagar; 9.30 am.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and

Vidyaranya Pratishthana: Dr H K Ranganath Memorial Humour Award Presentation, Race Course Road; 10.30 am.

DH

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	25.0°C
Minimum	18.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	68%
Sunset (Nov 29)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Nov 30)	6:23 am
Moonrise	12:33 am
Moonset	--:--

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

Meghalaya TOURISM

Government of Meghalaya Directorate of Tourism
3rd Secretariat, Nokrek Building, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong, Meghalaya, Pin: 793001
Email: technical.tourism@gmail.com

M/D Tour/Tech/101/2025/2 Dated 26th November 2025

OPEN TENDERING (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

Name of Work	"Upgradation of Shella local market & riverside development along Umiam river, Shella, Meghalaya"				
Period of Sale of Bidding Document	FROM 26 th November 2025 at 16:00 HOURS TO 16 th December 2025 at 13:00 HOURS				
Time and Date of Pre-Bid Conference	2 nd December 2025 at 13:00 HOURS				
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	16 th December 2025 at 13:00 HOURS				
* Time and Date of Opening Bids-Technical Part	16 th December 2025 at 16:00 HOURS				
Place of Opening of Bids	Office of Directorate of Tourism, Shillong-793001, Meghalaya				
Officer Inviting Bids	Director of Tourism, Shillong-793001, Meghalaya				
Package No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (Rs.)	Bid Security* (Rs.)	Cost of Document including GST and printing charges (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
M/D Tour/Tech/101/2025/2 Dated 26 th November 2025	"Upgradation of Shella local market & riverside development along Umiam river, Shella, Meghalaya"	12,16,00,000/-	24,32,000/-	Rs. 12,000/- Including GST and printing	24 Months

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K'taka never had a Dalit CM, says Yathindra

MANDYA, DHNS: MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah said, "It is not easy to gain political power. Once you get the CM's position, it is difficult to retain it. So far, 25 people have become chief ministers of Karnataka. Out of this, five are from backward communities. Dalits have not become the chief minister till now. Siddaramaiah and Devaraj Urs have completed five years."



Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah

It is rare for the Ahinda leaders to get power. But Siddaramaiah is serving as the chief minister for the second time. He has appealed to us to stand by those who work for the community, he said.

Yathindra participated in the felicitation ceremony of Kuruba students in Mandya on Friday.

Not in a hurry, party will decide: DKS on becoming CM

'We will go to Delhi whenever high command calls us'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Friday that he was "not in a hurry" to take over from Siddaramaiah as the chief minister even as both of them are anticipating a call from the Congress high command to settle the matter.

"I am not in a hurry...not hurrying anything. My party will take a decision," Shivakumar told reporters here. "We will go to Delhi whenever they call us."

Shivakumar described Delhi as "our temple" and said the high command "always" provides guidance. "We may rule here, but nothing [goes]

without Delhi," he said.

Shivakumar has received support from top Vokkaliga pontiffs Nirmalanandanatha Swami and Nanjavadhoota Swami as well as the Vokkaligara Sangha. All of them have publicly asked the Congress high command to make him the CM.

'My community is Congress'

"I don't want any community angle. My community is Congress," Shivakumar said, refusing to be confined as a Vokkaliga leader. "Of course, I belong to a community and they like me. I love all sections of society - backward classes, SC/STs and minorities. Even

Seer backs DKS, says Vokkaligas also OBCs

Spatikapuri Mutt pontiff Nanjavadhoota Swami met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and expressed support to his claim on the chief minister's chair. "Shivakumar has faced several challenges for Congress' sake," the pontiff said. On Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's followers making

the Ahinda pitch in his favour, the pontiff said: "Aren't Vokkaligas a backward class? Don't Vokkaligas come under OBC? Shivakumar has contributed to all sections of society. The Congress high command promised him that he'll be made CM in the second-half of this government."

Vokkaligas are a backward class," he said.

Shivakumar said he wants to visit Delhi to meet MPs from the state ahead of the winter session of Parliament. "I have a lot of work (in Delhi). I need to meet MPs. They should take forward some of our projects," he said.

On the Mekedatu project, Shivakumar said the govern-

Muniyappa hosts breakfast

Food & Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa hosted his Congress colleagues B K Hariprasad, H Anjaneya, B N Chandrappa and Venkataramanaiah for breakfast on Friday. After this, Muniyappa told reporters that the Congress high command should end the confusion surrounding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure. Hariprasad said Congress will have to ensure that the party's extended ecosystem, including civil society, that helped defeat the BJP, must not be antagonised.

Earlier in the day, Nanjavadhoota Swami of the Spatikapur Mutt met Shivakumar. Congress lawmakers K Y Nan-

SCSP/TSP funds: Congress brought it & gobbled it too, says Chalavadi

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Friday slammed the Congress government for causing "injustice" to Dalits, stating that it had "gobbled" the funds allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

"Food and Civil Supplies Minister Muniyappa says they brought the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan Act (SCSP/TSP Act). They brought it and gobbled it too. Problems of Dalits have increased. Though there are seven boards, not even a pittance has been released. Dalit workers are not getting jobs," he told reporters.

The SCSP/TSP Act, introduced during Siddaramaiah's first term as chief minister, provides 24% of budgetary allocation to SC/STs as per their population.

Recently, Muniyappa had said that the SCSP/TSP funds (A budgetary allocation of Rs 42,018 crore for 2025-26 for SC/STs) should be used to

ensure that fundamental facilities such as land and quality education are given to Dalits.

Reacting to this, Narayanaswamy, one of the Dalit leaders in the BJP, said: "There are reports that due to a Cabinet reshuffle, some ministers may not be continued. Against that backdrop, Muniyappa has made this comment just for the sake of it."

'Justice not done to communities'

BJP state general secretary P Rajeev, another Dalit leader, agreed with Muniyappa.

"How much land has been given (to Dalits)? Their achievement is zero. They show Rs 40,000 crore but not even Rs 40 work has directly reached SC/STs. They have misused the SCSP/TSP funds, diverted it, and are tarnishing the names of SC/STs. Though they are showing higher grants, they have not given justice to these communities."

Modi urges citizens to take nine sankalpas to transform India

PM bats for water conservation, healthy lifestyle and Swadeshi products

UDUPI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged citizens to adopt adopt "nine sankalpas" - a set of personal resolutions aimed at strengthening the nation through sustainable practices, cultural preservation and community responsibility.

He was speaking at the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme at Sri Krishna Mutt here, where one lakh participants, including students, monks, scholars and devotees, came together to recite the Bhagavad Gita in unison. The Prime Minister began his address with a warm 'Yellarigu Namaskara,' drawing an enthusiastic response from the gathering.

Modi emphasised on cultivating meaningful personal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a memento while conferring 'Bharatha Bhagya Vidhata' title on him, by Paryaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Theertha Swami, during Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme at Sri Krishna Mutt in Udupi on Friday. DH PHOTOS

goals. Among the nine resolutions he highlighted were water conservation, natural farming, and planting a tree in the name of mother (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam). He urged people to support at least one underprivileged person in improving their life.

Stressing the significance of "Swadeshi," he said that choosing Indian-made products strengthens the country's economic structure and creates employment oppor-

tunities. He also called upon citizens to "go vocal for local," encouraging them to promote indigenous products and technologies.

The prime minister underlined the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle by including millets in daily meals and embracing yoga as a part of daily life. He also spoke about the need to preserve ancient manuscripts and support the conservation of India's vast repository of tra-



Modi waves at people during a roadshow held on Bannanje-Kalsanka stretch of Udupi.

ditional knowledge.

He noted that the central government has launched the Gyan Bharat Mission to advance these efforts. Additionally, Modi urged every Indian to take a personal vow to visit at least 50 places in the country connected to India's parampara and virasat during their lifetime. He cited examples such as the Kurukshetra Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra and the Krishna-Rukmini Mela in Gujarat to illustrate

how cultural heritage continues to be celebrated.

Modi said that Lord Krishna's teachings and the message of the Bhagavad Gita have inspired several major government schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, the PM Awas Yojana, and the International Solar Alliance. He also made reference to the historic laws empowering women, stating that all national efforts should ultimately be directed toward the country's progress

Udupi accords cheerful welcome to Modi

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a rousing reception by thousands of people lined up on either side of the Bannanje-Kalsanka stretch in Udupi on Friday.

The entire route came alive with people chanting 'Modi, Modi'. Modi waved at the cheering people. Many showered flowers as Modi passed by, while others waved enthusiastically, creating a festive and emotionally charged atmosphere. BJP workers had made elaborate

arrangements to ensure the success of the event, distributing caps, shawls, masks, and T-shirts to the crowds that had gathered in large numbers to greet him.

The mood was further elevated by performances from various cultural troupes that showcased the vibrant traditions of coastal Karnataka. On his arrival at Adi Udupi, PM Modi was welcomed by Governor Thaaavarchand Gehlot, DC Swaroopa T K, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and others.

and well-being. He also recited the 15th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, the Panchadasha Adhyaya, adding a devotional essence to the occasion.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister inaugurated the Suvarna Teertha Mantapa located in front of the Krishna sanctum and dedicated the Kanaka

Kavacha—a golden covering for the sacred Kanakana Kindi, the window through which saint Kanakadasa is believed to have had darshan of Lord Krishna. Paryaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Theertha Swami conferred 'Bharatha Bhagya Vidhata' title on Modi on the occasion.

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IN SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPEAL NO. 13301/2015 the Woodville-Synergy One Residents have filed below mentioned petitions to
● Stay SEBI Auction Sale
● To Release Woodville-Synergy One Layout Properties attached to PACL Limited
M. MEDAHALLI and TATNAHALLI VILAGE
Survey Nos.:
28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 29/1, 29/2, 30/1, 30/2, 36/1, 36/2, 36/3, 37/1, 41/1, 43/1, 43/1, 43/2, 62
IAs filed in aforementioned Civil Appeal in Suprepre Court of India
● 295967/2025 ● 295968/2025 ● 296485/2025
● 295973/2025 ● 296009/2025 ● 296437/2025
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UPADHYA R/o #C72,
Krishna, 4th Cross
Basaveshwara Layout, BEML
3rd Stage, Bengaluru-98
have changed my name as
BALEKUDRU SHREESHA
KUMAR UPADHYA vide
affidavit dated 26/11/2025
before Notary K.V. Prema
Kumari, Bengaluru

I, SHIKHA NAIDU
PASUPULETI, residing at
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have changed my name to
SHIKHA SWAMI, vide
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I, DILIP POKHARNA,
residing at
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POKHARANA, vide
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I, MANJUNATH KOTHANUR
REDDEPPA, residing at
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name to MANJUNATHA
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Companies agree to buy maize from farmers as per MSP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following a discussion chaired by CM, ethanol-producing companies on Friday agreed to follow the government's directives and purchase maize as per the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

During the meeting, also attended by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy and Excise Minister R B Thimmapur, the government urged the companies to immediately procure maize to alleviate the crisis faced by farmers.

The discussion comes at a time when the state's farmers have sown a record quantity of maize. With an estimated sowing of 17.94 lakh hectares, the state is expected to produce 54.74 lakh metric tonnes of maize. Due to the increased production, prices have fallen below the MSP. The government informed the companies that officials have been directed to frame guidelines on the maize procurement process.

During the meeting, the companies explained their constraints. They referred to the Union government's cap that only 26.3 crore litres of ethanol may be produced in the state — requiring about 7 lakh metric tonnes of maize.

“Even though we requested the Union government to increase the limit to at least 100 crore litres, they have permitted only 26%. As a result, it is difficult to procure more maize from farmers. Since the production cost of ethanol is higher than the selling price, we cannot procure maize at MSP,” they said.

Q2 GDP growth trumps tariffs, jumps to 8.2%

GDP, from Page 1

This reflects the sharp decline in inflation. The gross value added (GVA) growth rose to a seven-quarter high of 8.1%, signaling broad-based strength across sectors. The gap between GDP and GVA growth has also narrowed, which reflects improved alignment in economic activity, both from the demand and supply sides, and tax collections, analysts said.

“India's GDP deflator has fallen to its lowest level since 2019, pulling down nominal GDP growth. This poses challenges for key ratios tied to nominal GDP, such as fiscal deficit, debt and current account. It will be harder for the government to meet its fiscal deficit targets, which are measured as a percentage of GDP,” said Rumki Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte India.

Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD, Mahindra Group, said the strong Q2 growth underscores the economy's inherent resilience and the depth of domestic demand. “Even amid headwinds such as US tariffs, our manufacturing and services sectors have demonstrated extraordinary adaptability and momentum. This performance reaffirms India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy,” he added.

“India's economy is amazingly resilient. At a time of global headwinds, a growth rate of over 8% is impressive. Domestic demand and deregulation can take it to double digits. We are continuously strengthening our position as world's fastest growing major economy,” said Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal.

Online room booking at pilgrim centres boosts Endowment dept revenue

Karnataka Bhavan in Tirumala generates highest revenue

PAVAN KUMAR H HUBBALLI, DHNS

Karnataka Endowment department is expected to generate revenue of Rs 27.42 crore in the financial year 2025-26 from renting out accommodations online at 12 temples in Karnataka and outside. This will be almost eight times more than its revenue compared to 2021-22, when the 1,703 rooms and 207 dormitories run by the government earned Rs 3.42 crore.

One of the reasons for such a huge jump in revenue collection is department making booking of accommodations online from 2023. Sources say that even with just 60% of accommodations being booked online, the depart-

ment has turned a loss-making venture into profitable as online booking has prevented pilferage of funds.

At present, only 12 of the 70 temples with choultries that are under the endowment department are allowing booking online. The 306 rooms at Karnataka Bhavan, Tirumala generates the highest revenue for the department. Till October end this year it had earned Rs 9.58 cr and in 2024-25 the revenue was Rs 12.64 cr. There is a waiting list of at least three months to book rooms online for Tirumala.

“Ever since the introduction of online room booking, a majority of the Endowment department managed stays have started earning profit. Tirumala Karnataka Bhavan, which ill



At present, only 12 of the 70 temples with choultries that are under the endowment department are allowing booking online.

2022 was seeking Rs two crore for management of rooms, has now Rs 20 crore in its account,” said Basavarajendra H, former Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, who introduced the online booking system.

Officers at the department say that there is a great resistance from temple management and priests against making rooms available for booking online as they fear it would curtail revenue for the management. Allowing

booking of all the rooms via online could improve revenue collection and bring transparency, they say.

“Many times VIPs and the public come to the shrines with recommendation letters from politicians and others. We have to provide accommodation for them, which is why not all the rooms are available for online booking,” said a management member of Kukke Subrahmanya temple, one of the richest temples in the state. Of the 538

rooms available here only 94 are allowed to be booked online. In 2024-25 the temple earned Rs 6.42 cr from renting their rooms, whereas before online booking the temple in Dakshina Kannada district earned only Rs 2.21 cr in 2021-22.

Sources also say that third-party audits of the revenue generated by the state-run choultries have not been conducted for the last five years.

Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said online booking of rooms has improved the financial conditions of all the 12 choultries. “Not a single paisa earned from these temples is being deposited in the government treasury. The revenue is being used for upgrading the facilities at these places.”

He also rejected the allegations that temple management committees are opposing bringing transparency in booking of rooms and said 90% of the people in the management are service minded and all the temple accounts are annually audited.

RTI activist: Rs 42L for Speaker's table, chair at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Right To Information (RTI) Act activist Bhimappa Gadad has said that government has made huge spending of Rs 42,93,940 for chairs and tables of Legislative Assembly Speaker and Rs 1,98,240 for replacing old plywood and cushion of the seat of Legislative Council Chairman at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha.

The Government has also spent Rs 67,67,964 for oil paintings of dignitaries in the Legislative Assembly hall of the state's second secretariat. Gadad told reporters here on Friday that spendings cross the

past records. In 2012, a sum of Rs 36,60,000 was spent for seat and equipment for the president who had come to inaugurate Suvarna Vidhana Soudha. Information of the spendings made have been obtained under RTI Act.

He said, that Rs 13,34,564 had been spent for seven oil paintings of dignitaries on February 27, 2023. These have been installed at the Legislative Assembly hall. Later citing that the faces do not match with the personalities, government released another Rs 28,49,200 on October 25, 2024 for the oil paintings which have been made by artists of repute.

FOGGY MORNING



Vehicles move along a flyover on a foggy morning in Bengaluru on Friday. AFP PHOTO

India won't bow down its head: PM in Udupi

Modi, from Page 1

“Earlier, when such attacks happened, governments would sit idle. But this is a new India — one that neither bows before anyone nor hesitates in fulfilling its duty to protect its citizens. India knows how to establish peace and how to safeguard it,” he asserted.

Shifting to the spiritual significance of the occasion, the prime minister said the collective chanting of the Bhagavad Gita by one lakh voices had created a powerful field of energy symbolising the continuity of India's civilisational

legacy. Calling the event a “rare spiritual fortune”, he said it showcased India's living heritage to the world.

The prime minister drew a connection between Udupi and Ayodhya, recalling that he had visited the holy city just three days earlier. Modi also acknowledged Udupi's pivotal role in the Ram Mandir movement, recalling the leadership of the late Vishwesha Tirtha Swami.

He noted that the newly built Ram temple features a “magnificent” gate dedicated to Jagadguru Madhvacharya, which is a matter of “great

pride” for the people of Udupi and the nation.

He said the Ashta Mutts of Udupi, founded by Madhvacharya, remain a living example of institution building and a sacred confluence of “knowledge, devotion and service”, feeding thousands and nurturing spiritual education.

He further pointed out that Madhvacharya's tradition inspired the Haridasa movement, with saints like Purandara Dasa and Kanaka Dasa spreading devotion through simple and melodic Kannada compositions that reached every household.

Akka Pade launched to safeguard women, children

BENGALURU, DHNS: A dedicated team of policewomen called ‘Akka Pade’ will be deployed in all the districts to protect and safeguard women and children. Launched by the Woman and Child Development Department, members of the Akka Pade will patrol sensitive and crowded places such as bus and railway stations, schools, colleges and malls, besides raising awareness about societal ills such as child marriage, child labour, substance abuse, et al.

Flagging off the initiative on Friday, Woman and Child Development Minister Laxmi

Hebbalkar said, “Akka Pade was inspired by an initiative launched by the Bidar Superintendent of Police. We decided to implement the same across the state to safeguard women and children. Akka Pade will patrol sensitive places round-the-clock.”

Anganwadi centres will soon house state-run Montessori, announced the minister. She also announced that that English-medium pre-primary education would be offered at 5,000 Anganwadi centres from the 2026-27 academic year.

Chief Minister Siddara-

maiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar too flagged off several initiatives to mark the golden jubilee of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme. The Gruha Lakshmi Co-Operative Society was also launched on the occasion.

Siddaramaiah, meanwhile, assured the Woman and Child Development Department of allocating sufficient funds so pre-primary education could be offered at more Anganwadi centres.

“Women must develop scientific and rational thinking,” said the CM.

India seals Rs 7,995-cr deal with US for Navy's MH-60R helicopter fleet support

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on India sealed a Rs 7,995 crore deal with the US as part of “follow-on support” package for Indian Navy's fleet of 24 Seahawk helicopters for five years.

The signing of the contract came amid some strain in ties between the two countries after US President Donald Trump slapped a whopping 50% tariffs on Indian goods in late August.

The Defence ministry said it signed Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOAs) with the US for sustainment support of the MH60R helicopter fleet through follow-on support

and supply for five years at an approximate value of Rs 7,995 crore.

MH-60R, manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics and sensors.

The LOAs were inked under the foreign military sales programme of the US.

India had signed an agreement with the US for procurement of 24-MH 60Rs in February 2020. The MH 60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.

The sustainment support is a comprehensive package which

includes provisioning of spares, support equipment, product support, training and technical support, repair and replenishment of components, according to the defence ministry.

It also provides for setting up of intermediate level component repairs and periodic maintenance inspection facilities in India for the choppers.

“In-country development of these facilities will ensure capability build-up in the long run and reduced dependence on the US government, thus aligning with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat,” the ministry said.

“This would further lead to indigenous product and services

development through MSMEs (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) and other Indian firms,” it said in a statement.

The Defence ministry said sustainment support would significantly enhance the operational availability and maintainability of the MH60R helicopters, which also have anti-submarine warfare capability.

“In addition, the support would enable the operation of these helicopters from dispersed locations as well as ships, ensuring optimal performance during all their primary and secondary missions,” it said. The first three MH-60R helicopters were delivered to India in 2021.

CSR: New policy says ‘spend your money in your own state’

CSR, from Page 1

Details shared by the department officials reveal that Karnataka has a CSR potential of Rs 8,500 plus crore annually, but a majority of it is going to other states. The data shows that in the year 2024-25, companies spent Rs 352 crore on education initiatives in Karnataka and in 2023-24 it was Rs 81 crore. “Following the shortage of funds for strengthening the KPS, the department had approached Asian Development Bank (ADB) for funds,” the official said.

“The aim is to involve CSR companies morally in developing and enhancing the quality of school education in the state,” the draft policy states. As explained in the draft policy, each KPS has been set up

with the aim of attracting at least 1,200 children from 8 to 11 villages in the surroundings. The department called the new policy a “transparent” and “creative model” to help companies spend their CSR on strengthening school education in the state.

“As companies spend their CSR mainly on construction, technology development, and providing basic facilities, the financial burden on the government will be reduced,” reads the draft. Sources in the school education department said that despite their efforts, some companies refused to spend the CSR fund in the state and this forced the government to come up with the new policy ‘spend your money in your own state’.

A majority of the CSR funds is going to Delhi, they said.

Metro set to install B'luru's first platform screen doors on Pink Line

Metro, from Page 1

Each PSD will be about 2.15 metre high and each PSG 1.4 metre, spanning the six-coach platform's full length of 128 metres. Their cost per station is estimated at Rs 9 crore.

In June 2024, French company Alstom Transport secured a €96.2 million contract to design, manufacture, supply, install, test and commission a fully automated Communications Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling system for Pink and Blue lines, covering 80.39 km. The contract also includes PSDs for Pink Line's 12 underground stations and the Blue Line's airport terminal station, and a PSG at the Airport City at-grade station. The project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The BMRCL also plans to install PSDs on the Purple Line at Majestic and Central College. The Konapana Agrahara station, funded by Infosys Foundation, will get PSGs.

Meanwhile, systems work on the Pink Line — covering all electrical, electronic and mechanical installations — is expected to take another six months, as each system needs to be installed, tested and integrated. The Pink Line will open in two phases. The 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere stretch is expected to open in May 2026 and the Dairy Circle-Nagawara section (13.76 km) in December next year.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

- 1) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED - AL 3118 YOM - 2016 Reg No - KA35B8265
- 2) TATA MOTORS LTD. - TATA_LPT_1216_45 HSD_DCR_BS_6 YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA37B6535
- 3) CB_MAHINDRA_BOLERO_MAXXCITY_PICKUP YOM -- Reg No - KA663923
- 4) CB_PRO_2075_CABIN_CHASSIS YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA53AB4936
- 5) CB_AL_LS 1309 YOM - 2018 Reg No - KA594807
- 6) CB_MAHINDRA_BOLERO_MAXXCITY_PICKUP YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA35D5398
- 7) CB_BACKHOE_LOADER_SD76_BHL_BULL YOM -- Reg No - KA06MB5972
- 8) CB_AL_PARTNER_4_TYRE_REFER_CONTAINER_FULLY_BUILT YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA595210
- 9) CB_MAHINDRA_MAXX_HD_1.7_LX_CBC_WITH_REFER_BODY YOM - 2025 Reg No - KA09AB4455
- 10) CB_MAH_JEETO YOM -- Reg No - KA21C6159
- 11) CB_TATA_LPT_4830_68_WB_COWL_BWL YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA32AA7344
- 12) CB_Escorts_JCB_3DX_Excavator Loader YOM -- Reg No - KA06MB2280
- 13) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM - Reg No - KA20AC2569
- 14) CB_EICHER_PRO_3019_FULLY_BUILT_VEHICLE YOM - Reg No - KA53AB0672
- 15) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED - AL 3118 YOM -- Reg No - KA06D3866
- 16) CB_ASHOK_LEYLAND_DOST_PLUS_LS_CABIN_CHASSIS YOM - 2023 Reg No - KA33B5319
- 17) CB_Escorts_JCB_3DX_Excavator Loader YOM -- Chassis No H0046753 Engine No 3382941
- 18) CB_TATA_SIGNA_5530_BSVI_CHASSIS YOM -- Reg No - KA01AQ0372
- 19) CB_AL_BADA_DOST YOM - 2022 Reg No - KA13D3579

UNDER HYPOTHECAATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS “AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 29.11.2025 (Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE KARNATAKA - 560001 OR Contact: Prashanthkumar S Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. Contact / 080 - 61564202

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)			
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP only)			
BESCOM invites tender to establish Transformer repair center through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal For Repairs and Reconditioning of 11KV class single coil/multi coil Conventional(Aluminium wound) and 3,4,5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities from 25 to 500 KVA and Conversion of CSP to Conventional bolt & nut type on lumpsum Rate basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at Transformer repair center in Taluk/Division of BESCOM jurisdiction vide following enquiry Numbers:			
Sl No.	Name of the Repair Center	Indent No.	Approximate Amount put to tender Rs. In Crores
1	Whitefield	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0294	3.22
2	Mathikere	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0297	4.42
3	Koramangala	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0298	3.70
4	RR Nagar	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0299	0.81
5	Rajajinagar	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0300	1.04
6	Kengeri	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0301	1.32
7	Yelahanka	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0302	2.34
8	Hosakote	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0303	3.20
9	Doddaballapura	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0304	6.08
10	Kolar	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0305	2.89
11	Srinivasapura	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0306	2.41
12	Mulbagilu	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0307	2.33
13	Malur	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0308	2.30
14	Chikkballapura	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0309	2.11
15	Bagepalli	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0310	4.77
16	Gowribidanur	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0311	2.90
17	Chintamani	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0312	3.83
18	Siddlaghatta	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0313	2.50
19	Channapatna	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0314	1.98
20	Magadi	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0315	3.19
21	Kanakapura	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0316	2.89
22	Tumkur	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0317	5.60
23	Gubbi	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0318	6.96
24	Kunigal	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0319	3.05
25	Tiptur	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0320	4.85
26	Chikkanayakanahalli	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0321	2.57
27	Thuruvekere	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0322	3.51
28	Madhugiri	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0323	4.45
29	Pavagada	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0324	4.09
30	Sira	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0325	5.25
31	Koratagere	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0326	2.72
32	Jagaluru	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0327	4.20
33	Channagiri	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0328	2.83
34	Harihara	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0329	2.60
35	Harappanahalli	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0330	5.42
36	Chitradurga RSD	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0331	4.58
37	Hosadurga	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0332	4.36
38	Holalkere	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0333	1.71
39	Hiriyuru	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0334	5.18
40	Challakere	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0335	3.38
41	Molakalmuru	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0336	4.24
42	Ramanagara	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0391	1.46
43	Chitradurga CSD	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0392	2.27
44	Nyamathi	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0393	1.81
45	Mayasandra	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0394	1.01
46	Huliyar	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0395	2.18
47	KGF	BESCOM/2025-26/SE0396	3.22

The Bid documents will be available from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or after 29.11.2025. The last date for submission of bids is upto 29.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal by visiting Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Ele.), Operations-1, BESCOM, 3rd Floor, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001, Ph. No: 080-22085074.

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UPF explosion: Half measures won't help

The dangers posed by ultra-processed food (UPF) have been flagged by *The Lancet* in three recent meta-analyses that also note how big businesses thrive, placing public health in peril. The papers expose the tactics corporations use to drive consumption and escape effective regulation. Middle- and low-income countries, including India, are the worst-hit. India is the fastest-growing UPF market, where the sale of these items grew 40 times in the last 15 years, riding high on aggressive pricing strategies like making them available in packets at Rs 5, 10, and 20. This, experts say, has contributed significantly to an exponential rise in obesity, diabetes, and other non-communicable diseases.

UPFs are industrial formulations of food substances, mostly high in fat, sugar, and salt. They are also high in harmful ingredients such as stabilisers, emulsifiers, colourants, and flavouring substances. Designed for overconsumption, convenience, and profit, UPFs are aggressively marketed and advertised, exposing children and youth in both rural and urban India to new risks. Shelves in retail stores across the country are packed with *namkeens*, biscuits, chips, noodles, breakfast cereals, and sugar-sweetened beverages. While a certain degree of food processing is required, ultra-processing is harmful as it takes away the inherent goodness of food. The distinction is known to the policymakers and was highlighted in the Economic Survey of 2024-25 and in the dietary guidelines issued by the National Institute of Nutrition under the Indian Council of Medical Research. But food companies are moneyed and highly influential.

Eight multinational companies dominate the global UPF market, and the advertising budget of three of them, in 2024, was four times the operating budget of the World Health Organisation. It is no surprise that the industry always finds a place at the high table where policies are made. In India, too, corporations enjoy substantial financial and political power and are the key drivers of UPF consumption. They use sophisticated strategies to block regulation, shape science, and frame themselves as part of the solution. The companies use loopholes in the law and its poor implementation to peddle UPF. The front-of-pack nutrition labelling is not in place, though the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been working on it for years. The Advertisement Code hasn't been modified to curb UPF promotion, eight years after it was recommended in a national action plan. If the government is serious about protecting the citizens' health, it needs to work on a priority to legally define UPFs, put a mandatory warning label on the packs, and keep a close check on ways they are marketed.

Ineffective regulation abets a surge of ultra-processed foods in India. The threat to public health is real

Lax redress systems erode consumer trust

Unfilled vacancies in commissions constituted for redress of consumer grievances – both at the state and district levels – continue to dilute the spirit of India's Consumer Protection Act. According to reports, 18 out of 36 state-level commissions do not have presidents, and 62 members' positions are vacant. Of the 685 district-level commissions, 218 do not have presidents; the number of member vacancies is 518. Karnataka has reported many vacancies; the government has claimed that the process of filling them is underway. Earlier this year, the Karnataka High Court told the state government to expeditiously fill the vacancies and closed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) based on an assurance from the government. These vacancies have severely hindered the functioning of the commissions, just as unfilled positions in information commissions have affected the delivery of justice under the Right To Information (RTI).

The Consumer Protection Act envisages and proposes speedy and effective redress of grievances, with the help of technology through real-time tracking of cases, virtual hearings, filing e-record management, etc. With digital payment avenues facilitating a surge in the gig economy and e-commerce, there is an urgent need to adopt new legal tools to handle complaints of a new nature, covering new forms of service lapses. The online marketplace has spread across sectors in the country: from consumer goods and services to food and travel to health and education, giving rise to thousands of complaints about the deficiency in services on the part of the providers. These have to be addressed under the provisions of the Act. Timely redress for the complainants will hinge on commissions that operate with the requisite strength.

It is to be noted that a parliamentary standing committee on consumer affairs, food, and public distribution found the online grievance redress platform – e-daakhil – as having resolved only 23% of the registered complaints. In its report, the committee also noted that the relevant ministry had not provided substantial information on measures taken to address shortcomings highlighted in earlier instances. That the committee's original recommendation for setting up a monitoring mechanism to ensure transparency was not acted upon exposes systemic bottlenecks. When commissions are unable to function due to a lack of personnel and digital redress platforms fail to plug the gaps, it signifies an erosion of the idea of consumer protection. The Central and state governments must prioritise the resolution of these issues to bolster the redress mechanism and restore public trust in the system.

Vacancies in commissions hurt at a time when consumers are exposed to new forms of service lapses

COMMENT

A SHAKY BALANCE

When tigers outgrow their habitats

Abundant water and prey push numbers beyond capacity, leaving communities exposed to conflict and losses

SANJAY GUBBI

The recent spurt in human deaths caused by tigers and the consequent farmer protests in the famed Bandipur Tiger Reserve have once again brought human-wildlife conflict into sharp focus. Tragically, three people lost their lives, and one suffered severe injuries, losing both eyes. In response to public protests, the Forest Department captured 14 tigers. Clearly, both people and wildlife are suffering from these unfortunate incidents.

Elephants, leopards, and tigers are the three species most commonly involved in fatal conflicts in Karnataka. The focus here is on tigers, as solutions differ across species and even vary geographically.

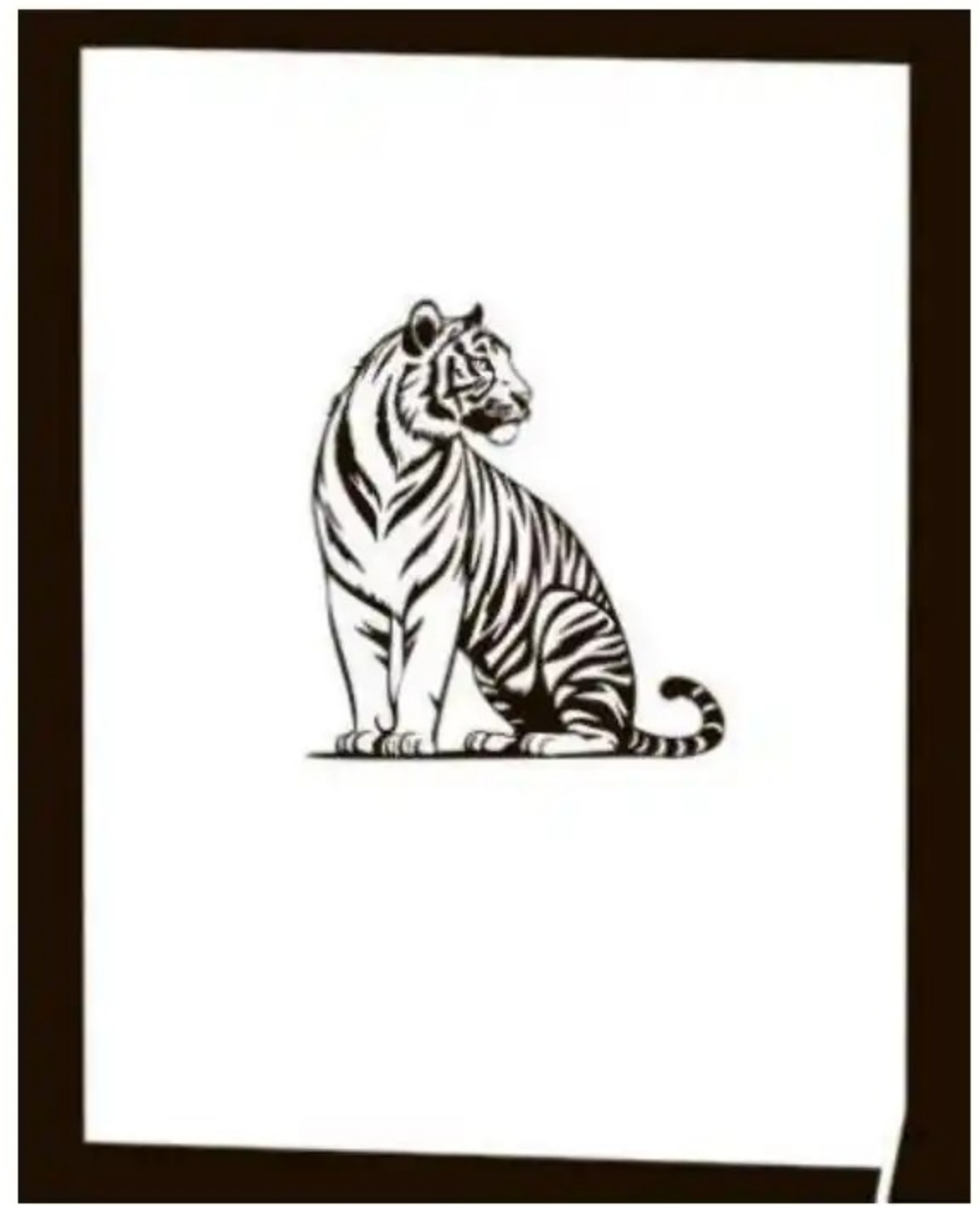
Government records show that Karnataka had 563 tigers in 2022. Of these, about 52% were in Bandipur and Nagarahole, and around 15% in the state's other three tiger reserves. Ideal tiger habitats and four decades of strong protection efforts have contributed to these high concentrations in the two reserves. However, the steady rise in tiger numbers is also due to intensive habitat manipulation aimed at supporting large tiger populations. This includes digging waterholes to ensure year-round water availability, constructing check dams, and creating artificial grasslands to increase fodder for prey species. As a result, chital – tigers' preferred prey – have increased in abundance, since they mostly feed on grass and their survival and reproduction improve under conditions of high water availability. This has, in turn, led to an increase in tiger numbers. Bandipur's tigers, for example, have risen from 120 in 2014 to about 150 in 2025.

But while tiger numbers are growing, forest cover is not. Bandipur and Nagarahole likely support more tigers than their ecological carrying capacity. Tigers have no natural predators; their population is naturally regulated by resource scarcity, injuries, and conflicts with other tigers. These natural factors help keep their numbers within the ecological carrying capacity of an area.

When we artificially provide abundant water and prey, their populations exceed natural limits. Consequently, many tigers

now wander outside forests into farmlands, plantations, and riverine patches in human-dominated landscapes. Today, over 50 tigers born in Bandipur or Nagarahole live in agricultural fields, coffee estates, or along rivulets. It is not scarcity of resources that pushes them out – it is overabundance within the reserves. The ecological carrying capacity of Bandipur and Nagarahole together may be around 200 tigers, but over 290 tigers currently survive there.

Why, then, are tiger numbers rising sharply only in these two reserves? One key reason is tourism – not because it directly enhances protection, but because of the revenue it generates. Earlier, tourism income from all protected areas was



pooled and distributed based on need. However, an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act in 2006 mandated that tourism revenue must be retained and spent within the protected area where it is generated. This changed everything. Bandipur and Nagarahole now earn over Rs 40 crore annually from tourism, and much of this money goes into digging waterholes, building check dams, constructing arches, and other cement-and-concrete activities. This pattern of spending needs urgent rethinking.

Local communities living around these forests bear the brunt of rising wildlife numbers. Their crops are raided by wild pigs, elephants, chital, and peafowl. Their livestock are preyed upon by tigers and leopards. Except for a small group that depends on tourism for livelihoods, most residents gain no direct benefit from wildlife conservation. They experience only the costs.

At least 50% of tourism revenue should therefore be redirected towards community development, quick compensation for conflict losses, and welfare measures. The remaining 50% can sup-

port temporary staff salaries, enhancing their basic facilities, training, and protection work. To create more local employment opportunities, heavy construction machinery should be replaced with manual labour wherever possible. This would generate jobs and reduce the disturbance caused by large machines inside forests.

New conservation pathways

We need to challenge some long-held beliefs if we hope to reduce human-wildlife conflict. For over two decades, we have dug thousands of waterholes and lakhs of percolation pits, and installed numerous solar pumps under the assumption that wildlife are leaving forests due to a lack of water or fodder. If that were true, human-wildlife conflict should have been reduced in Bandipur and Nagarahole, not increased. The same goes for weed removal – if weeds were severely limiting fodder, how are prey species increasing? If deer depended mainly on crops, lakhs of chital should be grazing outside forests.

Social media has created another challenge. Injured wildlife, often harmed due to natural causes such as fights, falls, or thorns, are increasingly treated like pets or zoo animals. Tiger cubs are reared in captivity when their mothers go missing. This artificially pushes numbers higher. Apex predators need natural mortality for population regulation. We must stop treating naturally injured wildlife inside protected areas, and this requires scientific thinking rather than bowing to social media pressures of a few.

The time taken to provide *ex gratia* compensation for livestock loss often stretches beyond a year, creating deep resentment towards wildlife. The government must ensure compensation within two weeks, which would greatly reduce anger and frustration among farmers.

Although it is remarkable to see tigers surviving even in human-dominated landscapes, we must assess this also from the perspective of social carrying capacity. Otherwise, society may take matters into its own hands – as we have already seen in the case of elephants in Hassan district.

If we want to meaningfully reduce human-wildlife conflict, we must correct some fundamental mistakes. Taking firm, science-based decisions today can lead to positive change within a decade. If not, public anger, political pressure, and violence against forest staff will continue to escalate.

(The writer is a wildlife biologist and the author of *Second Nature: Saving Tiger Landscapes in the 21st Century*)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Laos and the wisdom in its smiles

In a land overlooked by travellers, I found a serenity that followed me home

PRIYAN R NAIK

Normally, Thailand is known as the "Land of Smiles", with smiling a cultural trait used to express a range of emotions. Only it was neighbouring Laos, quiet and often overlooked, that truly taught me the meaning and value of a smile.

Tourists visit Laos's neighbours, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, while Laos is always the bridesmaid, never the bride, and rarely the first choice on a traveller's itinerary. So when I crossed into Laos from Thailand on a sun-baked afternoon, expecting little more than another stamp on my passport, I found instead a country slow, unhurried yet content, a country where immigration officers smiled as they stamped my passport as if welcoming a long-lost relative.

In Vientiane, that smile seemed stitched into daily life. The traffic lights

were philosophical, changing whenever they felt they should, while people simply smiled and waited! My tuk-tuk driver smiled when he didn't know the road. The cafe owner smiled when the Wi-Fi stopped working. Coming from Bengaluru, where the day begins with impatience and noise has its own grammar, I mistook this gentle silence for inefficiency. But slowly, the smiles softened something in me even as I watched monks walk barefoot on the Mekong riverfront, collecting alms, heads bowed with serene smiles conveying gratitude.

As I stumbled through a small market near Pha That Luang, Laos's revered stupa, I found a young man selling woven scarves made by his grandmother. I bought two, because his smile seemed woven into the fabric. Nearby, an old woman selling French baguettes stuffed with papaya salad laughed when I tried to pronounce the Laotian word for thank you.

Luang Prabang was another smile-laden dream in slow motion. At dawn, the town turned saffron as monks walked barefoot through misty streets. At dusk, the same streets glowed with

lanterns. I remember sitting by the Mekong, watching children leap into the water, smiling as they played.

Yet change has begun to hum at the edges. A new high-speed train slices through mountains once ruled by silence. Tourists arrive in waves, making locals worry that Laos may lose the very stillness that defines it. But for now, the kindness and the smiles remain. This small landlocked country has endured colonialism, poverty and neglect, yet it meets the world not with complaints but with a smiling composure. Its people smile not because life is easy, but because they have learnt that patience is a choice to be made quietly.

Back in Bengaluru, when traffic snarls, WiFi collapses or plans fall apart, I realise Laos has followed me home in invisible ways. I miss the patience of its people, the hush of its mornings, and the smiles before every word. I think of the Mekong, the river that never felt rushed yet never stopped. A country that doesn't forget to smile back, Laos taught me that smiling is not denying difficulties but a type of dignity, a rare lesson for a hurried world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There's more to cursive than handwriting

I refer to 'Cursive writing losing favour in city schools' (Nov 28). Teaching children cursive is no longer a priority in our schools, but it should be. Once central to public education, handwriting has been displaced by computer classes, and cursive writing, along with addition and subtraction, has become a casualty of technology. Writing with a pen or pencil is a habit we should not abandon to keyboards and texting. Neuroscientists warn that giving up handwriting may affect how future generations learn to read. Norwegian researchers found that handwriting

produces "far more elaborate" brain activity than typing. Psychologists agree it is far too soon to declare handwriting a relic of the past. Cursive is not about rejecting technology or nostalgia; it is about preserving a form of expression unique to each person, as individual as a signature. Educators and policymakers should stress cursive instruction in classrooms. If we allow cursive to vanish, we risk losing not only a skill but a vital connection between thought, language, and identity.

HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

must intervene to restore public trust in the government.

TV Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

A different ballgame

Apropos 'Big Test: New cracks in the home fortress' (Nov 29), the debate can be attributed to the inability of the selectors and coach to select the right players for Tests. The transition from a group of great players at their peak to this new lot was never going to be easy. Spending long hours at the crease is one

of the essential traits of batsmen in Test cricket. However, the selectors appear to have relied on the performance of batsmen in the IPL for inducting them into the Test squad. As rightly said, the BCCI should conduct an honest introspection to set its house in order before it gets too late.

HVK Bhatta, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Modiji, India's children are choking in front of us. How can you stay silent? Why does your government show no urgency, no plan, no accountability?



Rahul Gandhi, Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP

When truth is replaced by silence, the silence is a lie.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko

TO BE PRECISE

IMF gives India a 'C' on its GDP and other national accounts data



IN PERSPECTIVE

The scent of a trademark

India has accepted its first smell trademark, but can it guide consumers and enforce action against infringers?

SUNDAR ATHREYA H AND PARIMITA DASH

Trademarks fall under the larger canopy of intellectual property laws. Each intellectual property law, traditionally, has different purposes to achieve. Copyright law is aimed to promote learning, patent law secures scientific invention, and trademarks have had an altogether different function to achieve – they are tools to help the consumer identify the source of a product. It helps the consumer to differentiate one product from the other. In trademark protection, the consumer is the intended beneficiary. The consumer associates the brand with a specific quality and makes a choice based on its reputation.

Historically, names and labels of the business have functioned as their trademark. However, in the past few decades, brands have started adopting different strategies to market themselves, going beyond names and labels. Companies have used sound, colour, shape, or even smell to market their products. Names and labels fall under the category of conventional marks, while the others are categorised as unconventional marks.

India had taken the policy decision to protect both conventional and unconventional marks by signing the TRIPS agreement in 1994. In accordance with it, India introduced the new trademark law in 1999. While unconventional marks such as shape, sound or even colour marks gained acceptance, the scent marks have found it difficult to garner successful registration owing to the legal requirement of graphical representation. It is easier for a brand to graphically represent sound, colour, or shape; the same was not possible in the case of smell because of its transient nature.

The Indian trademark registry recently accepted the Japanese company Sumitomo Rubber Industries' smell mark application for 'floral fragrance of roses applied to tires.' It was initially opposed by the registry for lack of graphical representation. The company has previously secured successful registration in various other countries. Sumitomo might have developed the reputation of a distinctive feature of rose-smelling tires abroad, but the application is filed on a proposed-to-be-used basis in India, signalling it is yet to be commercially used.

It was possible for the applicant to comply with the law

because of a seven-dimensional scientific graphical representation developed by experts from IIT Allahabad. This is a pivotal moment in Indian trademark law, for the first time, a smell mark has garnered acceptance. The graph developed categorises smell into various characters such as fruity, woody, nutty, pungent, sweet, and minty. This move helped the Japanese company to comply with the statutory requirement.

The graph is not completely free from flaws; it gives a description of the smell, but does not represent the smell. The smell is subjective in nature, and humans perceive a smell based on their prior experience with it. A graphical representation of one mark might be similar to the graphical representation of another, but it may not be perceived in the same way by a human nostril.

The infringement fix

This application has helped India align with the TRIPS mandate to offer protection to unconventional marks. It complies with the literal requirement of the statute, but not its intended objective. The floral graphical representation is different from the audio file of a sound mark or the graphical representation of a colour or shape of a product. It does not replicate the scent of a trademark, but merely helps the trademark examiners to assess the application in front of them.

Would the graph penetrate the nostrils of an average consumer with imperfect reflection of memory is a question that remains unanswered. The trademark law's position is not in the best interest of the consumer. Furthermore, a trademark registration enables the trademark owner to prosecute the infringers. In the case in hand, would Sumitomo be able to successfully prosecute the trademark infringers, if they utilise the sweet fragrance of roses on tires and beyond? The newly issued graph might not help the court in successfully differentiating one smell from the other.

This issue would have pronounced implications, especially in the perfumery industry and in the food industry, because the smell of the product/food item is a key marketing factor for these industries. The protection still does not give sufficient reasons for granting exclusive ownership over smell to an entity. The present smell mark might be a welcoming step for business entities and may raise hope to many more applicants to secure their trademarks, but does it effectively strengthen the trademark portfolio of a business and its ability to prosecute violators remains an important question.

(Sundar and Parimita are assistant professor and associate professor, respectively, at the KIIT School of Law)

Mahayuti: A year of tightrope walking

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
DH NEWS SERVICE

As the BJP-led Mahayuti government completes its first year in power, Maharashtra's political landscape appears more complex and layered than at any point in nearly a decade.

On December 5, 2024, BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the chief minister for the third time, with Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde and NCP's Ajit Pawar as deputy chief ministers after a power-sharing deal that proved far from frictionless. With three powerful centres of authority – Fadnavis (Deva Bhau), Shinde (Bhai) and Pawar (Dada) – each commanding distinct party structures, regional bases and ambitions, the coalition has often functioned like a political triangle.

Unlike coalitions where chief ministers dominate smaller partners, the Mahayuti demands constant negotiation, ego-balancing and careful power-sharing. The first year showed that stability depends not merely on numbers but on continuous management, accommodation and vigilance. The three leaders frequently disagreed on key issues, and several times Shinde and Pawar flew to New Delhi to seek Union Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention.

Shinde's 2022 rebellion reshaped the Shiv Sena, leaving Uddhav Thackeray heading the Shiv Sena-UBT. Ajit Pawar's dramatic 2023 split from the NCP, with Sharad Pawar leading the NCP-SP, completed the BJP's project of weakening regional adversaries. The 2024 Assembly results gave the alliance numerical strength and triggered a redistribution of power. Ajit Pawar secured Finance and Planning along with Excise, while Shinde took over Urban Development, Housing, Public Works and Public Undertakings. Both also became guardian ministers for Thane and Pune. The BJP, despite holding

‘Our allies are happy, we have zero tolerance for corruption’

In an interview with *DH's* **Sumit Pande**, Maharashtra Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** outlines the priorities of the Mahayuti government and the way forward.

You were handed a massive mandate, which comes with responsibilities. What have been the major challenges in the last 12 months?

We have a coalition government. It may be seen from the outside that keeping everyone on board and running the government in a smooth manner is a challenge, but our partners are happy. We are successfully running the government, without any hindrances or complaints, unlike the previous government by opposition parties, which was riddled with corruption and scams.

On the law-and-order front, we have dealt strictly with anti-social elements. Our operation against Maoist groups in affected areas is successfully going on, even as we have welcomed those who have shunned violence and surrendered. We have a clear policy now to rehabilitate Maoists who are ready to lay down their arms. We hope to wipe out the Maoist problem very soon.

How do you respond to allegations about even men getting the benefits of the Ladki Bahin Yojana?

When a new scheme of this scale starts, some leakages in the initial phase of implementation do happen. But we are quick to learn from our experiences and rectify any loopholes we notice, immediately. A

system of periodic audit and review is in place. We are committed to ensuring that not a single woman beneficiary is left out.

Vijayawada, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru are competing to emerge as hubs for global capability centres and tech startups. How is Maharashtra placed?

Maharashtra is one of India's favourite destinations for GCCs, tech investments, and startups – driven by Mumbai, Pune, and Navi Mumbai. Maharashtra enjoys structural advantages like financial capital status, global connectivity, diversified talent base, and deep enterprise demand that are difficult to replicate. Mumbai is home to Fortune 500 GCCs, top banks, fintech, capital markets, insurance and media headquarters. Pune has emerged as India's top ER&D plus automotive manufacturing-tech hub, competing with cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Navi Mumbai is fast becoming a deep-tech and

data centre capital.

So, yes, the competition is increasing, but Maharashtra is not losing ground. We are committed to ensuring faster policy implementation and lower commercial costs.

Shiv Sena (UBT) has alleged that Maharashtra, the industrial powerhouse of India, is losing investments to Gujarat. How do you respond?

What do I say about these unfounded and politically motivated allegations? The facts are there for everyone to see. Maharashtra has received 40% of the total foreign direct investment in 2024-25. Out of the total FDI of Rs 4,21,929 crore coming into the country in 2024-25, Rs 1,64,875 crore came to Maharashtra. This amounts to 40% of the total FDI received. This is 32% more than the FDI received by the state in the previous financial year.

Maharashtra is clearly leading in FDI inflows, with other states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat trailing behind us. Let's not get distracted by the Opposition's rhetoric and petty politics.

What have been the working relations with Eknath Shinde?

We enjoy good relations with all our partners, including Eknath Shinde ji. We have been successfully running the government together with a shared vision of a strong, vibrant and developed Maharashtra

The Maoists have sought more time to lay down arms. Will you concede?

As I said earlier, the existing surrender policy is clear and open to all Maoists. The government is willing to ensure safety and protection for those who are ready to lay down their arms, but security operations will not cease. The anti-Maoist operations are part of a broader government deadline to end Left-Wing Extremism by March 31, 2026. We will work under that framework.

Was the recent controversy over alleged Pune land allocation to a company linked to the son of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar avoidable?

As soon as this issue came to my notice, I ordered an enquiry. This is a serious matter, and I discussed it with Ajit Pawar ji. A thorough enquiry will be conducted, and the law will take its own course. I can only assure you that we have a zero-tolerance policy for corruption.

Do you see a larger role for yourself in public life outside Maharashtra?

I have said this before. I am here to stay in Maharashtra. I have been given a responsibility, which I wish to fulfil with the best of my sincerity and ability.

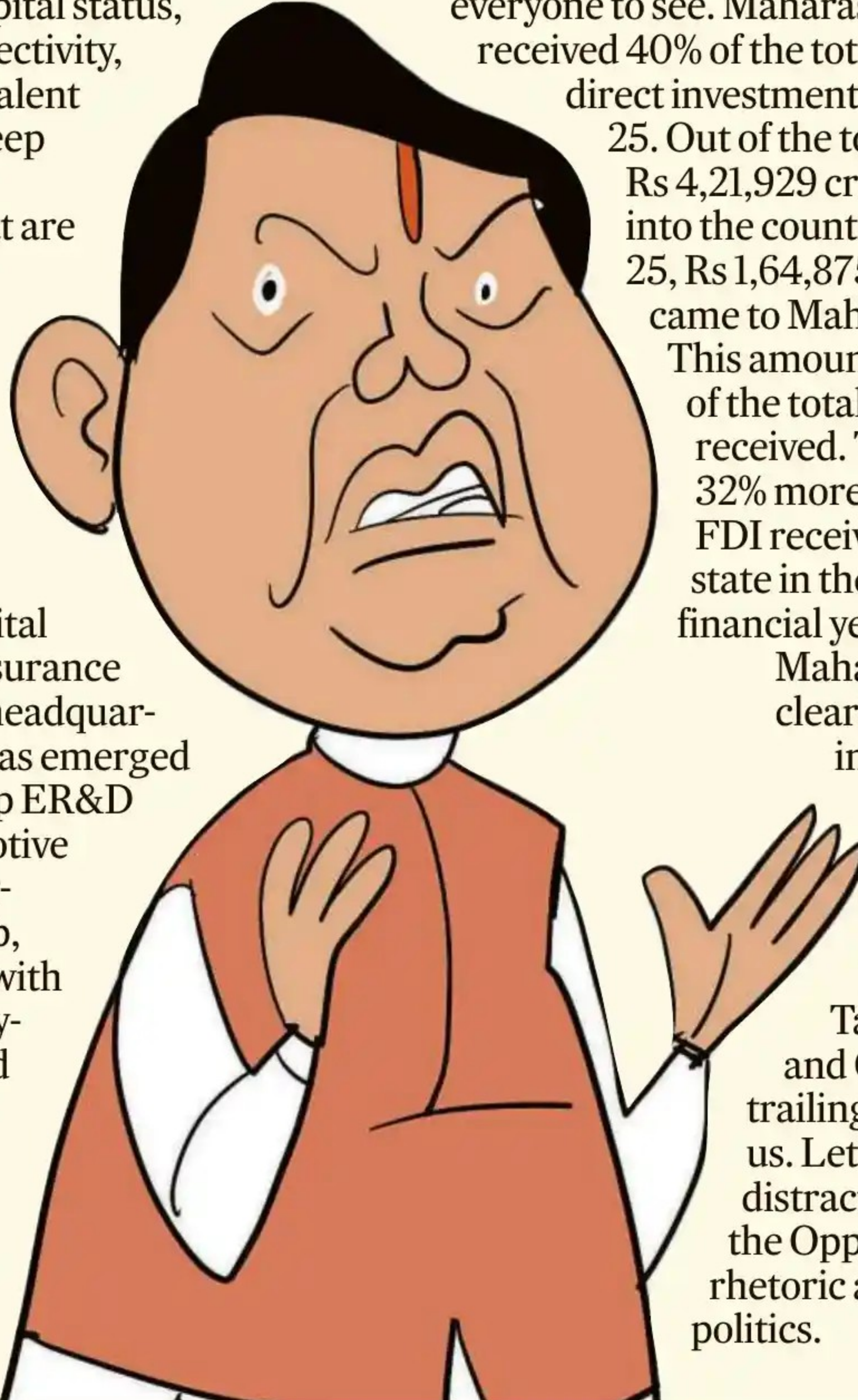
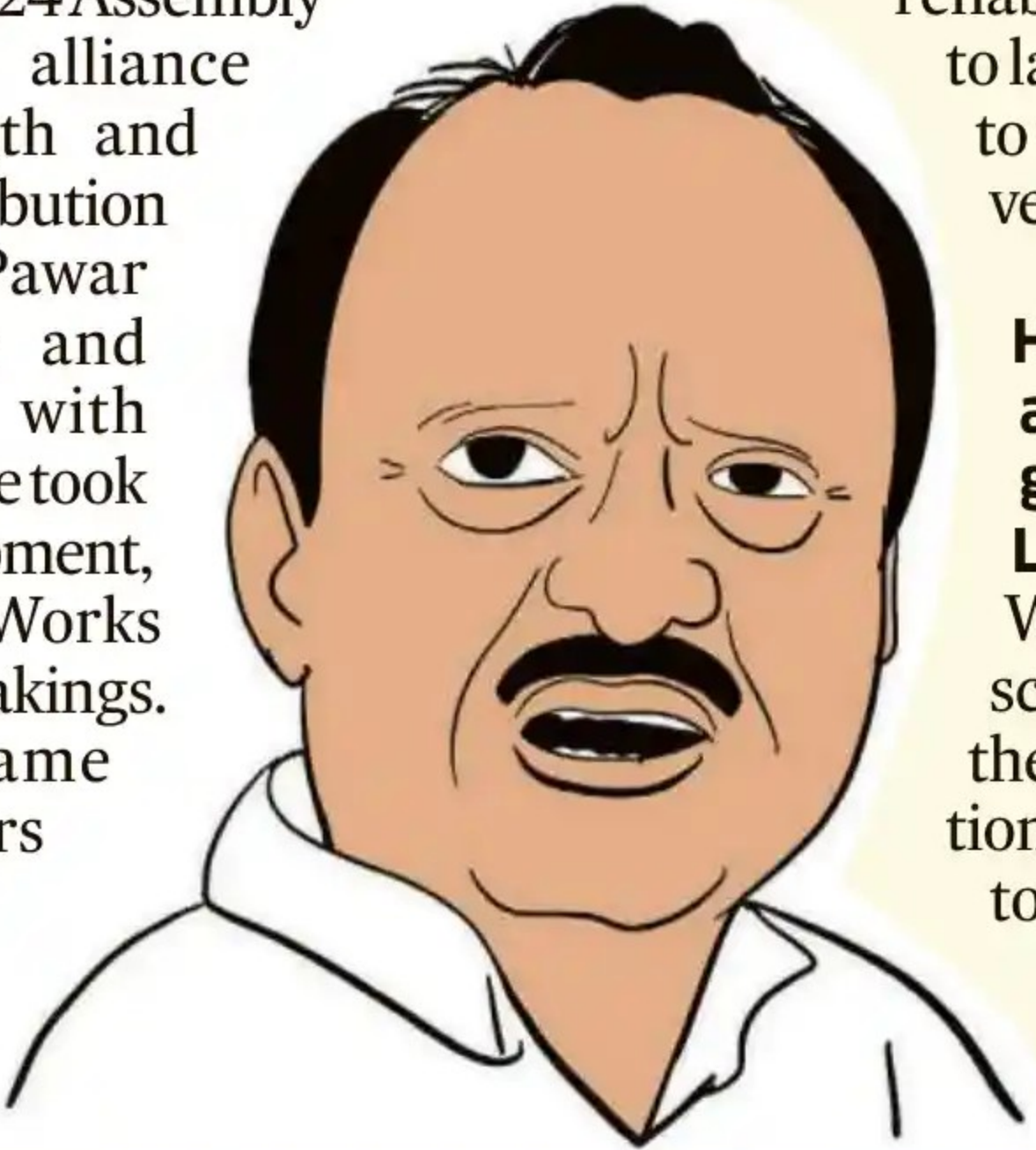
fewer ministries than expected, positioned itself as the strategic anchor, with Fadnavis – an astute leader with RSS roots – tasked with keeping allies aligned.

The government's first year was marked by mistrust. Fund allocation became a recurring flashpoint, with legislators from all three parties alleging delays or selective prioritisation of proposals. This unease deepened suspicions regarding influence and access within the coalition.

Reports indicate frustration within the Shiv Sena over Shinde being overshadowed by both Fadnavis and Pawar. A group of his ministers even boycotted a cabinet meeting over alleged BJP poaching of Shiv Sena leaders in Thane, his stronghold. He raised the issue with Shah. Publicly, however, both Shinde and Pawar insist all is well. Still, Shinde's political identity – built on the claim that Uddhav Thackeray abandoned Balasaheb's legacy and the natural Hindutva alliance – appears under strain as he navigates constraints he once criticised.

Pawar's firm control over finance gave his faction significant leverage, periodically unsettling both the BJP and Shinde-led Sena. It created a new, multi-layered clearance route for major proposals – moving from finance to the Deputy CMs and then to the CM – symbolising bureaucratic congestion and political jockeying. Pawar also courted controversies, including reprimanding a probationary IPS officer and his “no votes, no funds” remark, often prompting the CM to intervene to contain criticism.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) frequently cited the “three power centres” to allege that the government lacked cohesion. Yet the Mahayuti remains intact, bound by political necessity and ideological overlap. But can the coalition transcend constant firefighting and deliver on its promise of stability and development?



THE HICCUPS

Mahayuti Government Dec 5, 2024: After a landslide win in the assembly polls, Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP becomes chief minister, with Eknath Shinde of Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar of NCP as deputies.	 NCP's Dhananjay Munde , a veteran OBC leader, resigned as minister after his aide Walmik Karad's arrest in a murder case.	Minister and NCP leader Manikrao Kokate was stripped of the agriculture portfolio and instead given the sports and youth affairs portfolio for making statements like “the farmers are beggars” and “the government is a beggar”.	Sep-Oct 2024 floods devastated 1.43 lakh hectares of farmland across Maharashtra.	Parth Pawar , Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar's son, and his cousin Digvijay Patil were accused of illegally buying a plot near Koregaon Park for Rs 300 crore despite a market value of about Rs 1,800 crore.	Siddhant Shirsat , son of minister Sanjay Shirsat of the NCP, was criticised for allegedly trying to buy a Rs 110-crore hotel for Rs 67 crore	Maratha-OBC quota conflict escalated after Manoj Jarange Patil's agitation and the government's Kunbi-recognition, triggering sharp OBC opposition.
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SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Finding new tools to fight breast cancer

Researchers worldwide continue to explore new, precise and less toxic approaches to treat breast cancer, writes **Sundararajan A R**

In India, the survival rate for breast cancer remains lower than in many high-income countries. Contributing factors include late diagnosis, limited screening uptake, and a younger average age at onset. Standard breast cancer treatment may involve one or more modalities, including surgery, chemotherapy, hormone (endocrine) therapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy. Outcomes have improved significantly over the past two decades. Yet, researchers worldwide continue to explore new, more precise and less toxic therapeutic approaches.

Historically, the primary surgical treatment was radical mastectomy, which involved the removal of the entire breast along with axillary lymph nodes and sometimes chest muscles—often resulting in significant physical and psychological impact. Advances in diagnostics and surgical technique—including digital breast tomosynthesis (3D mammography) and breast-conserving surgery (lumpectomy) paired with radiation therapy—now allow many patients to preserve breast tissue while achieving excellent tumour control.

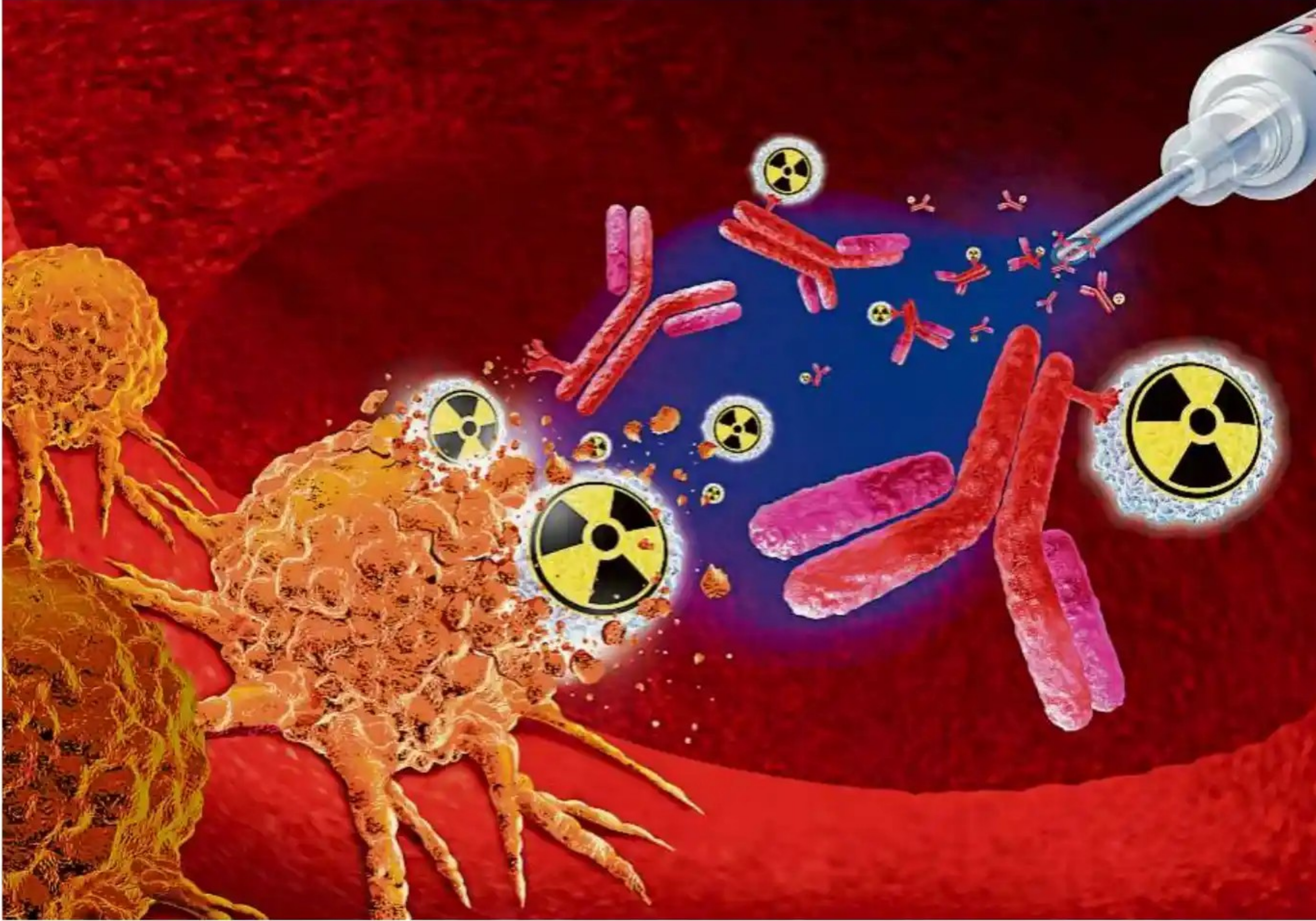
Radiation therapy techniques have evolved considerably. Options such as partial breast irradiation, brachytherapy, intraoperative radiotherapy, and intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) now help limit radiation exposure to healthy tissue and improve cosmetic outcomes.

Chemotherapy protocols—using single or combination drugs tailored to cancer subtype and stage—remain an important component of treatment. Anthracyclines, for example, act by intercalating with DNA, inhibiting topoisomerase II, and preventing cancer cell replication, though they may cause notable systemic toxicity, and drug resistance can occur. Chemotherapy may be administered before surgery (neoadjuvant) to shrink tumours or after surgery (adjuvant) to prevent recurrence.

Hormonal therapy is widely used for hormone receptor-positive cancers, the most common breast cancer subtype. It works by blocking the pathways for estrogen or progesterone that are necessary for tumour growth. Medications such as tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors are standard treatments. In select cases, surgical ovarian suppression may be used.

Immunotherapy is increasingly relevant in breast cancer treatment. Immune checkpoint inhibitors—particularly for triple-negative breast cancer—have been approved and are providing meaningful benefit for some patient groups. CAR-T cell therapy remains experimental in breast cancer and is currently being studied in early-stage clinical trials.

Targeted therapies, including antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), represent one of the most promising advances in modern medicine. ADCs link monoclonal antibodies that recognise specific cancer cell proteins (such as HER2) to potent cytotoxic drugs, enabling highly targeted destruction of tumour cells. Examples such as trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1) and trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) are already in clinical use for HER2-positive breast cancer.



Newer therapies

Significant progress in molecular biology and cellular oncology has led to a new class of emerging cancer therapies focused on precision and reduced toxicity.

Photothermal therapy (PTT) is one such experimental approach. It involves introducing photothermal agents—often nanoparticles—into the tumour. When exposed to near-infrared (NIR) laser light, these agents generate heat, selectively destroying cancer cells through thermal ablation. Both organic nanoparticles (e.g., cyanine dyes and porphyrins) and inorganic materials (e.g., gold and carbon-based nanostructures) are being studied. Current challenges include limited tissue penetration of NIR light and potential damage to surrounding healthy tissues—research into fibre-optic-guided delivery and improved targeting aims to overcome these limitations.

Personalised treatment strategies are gaining prominence. Antibody-drug conjugates exemplify this direction, enabling the selective killing of cancer cells while sparing

healthy tissue. Indian research centres, including Tata Memorial Hospital, are actively investigating novel nanoscale delivery systems, including marine-derived biopolymers, to enhance drug targeting and reduce toxicity—currently in preclinical evaluation.

Another area of promising research involves radiopharmaceuticals. The protein Nectin-4 is overexpressed in certain breast cancers and is a potential biomarker for disease progression. Targeted molecules engineered to bind securely to Nectin-4 are being developed, and some research teams have paired these molecules with alpha-emitting radionuclides such as Actinium-225 to deliver highly localised radiation directly to tumour cells.

Most current radiopharmaceutical treatments use beta-emitting isotopes such as I-131, Y-90, Lu-177, and Sm-153. Alpha-emitters, however, offer higher linear energy transfer and very short penetration ranges—allowing more effective destruction of tumour cells while sparing adjacent tissue. Actinium-225, with a half-life of about 10 days, is considered well-suited for this approach. Production of Actinium-225 remains limited worldwide, though it can be obtained through separation (“milking”) from thorium-229 or by proton-induced spallation of thorium-232. India's long-standing thorium-fuel research and the operation of the U-233-fuelled KAMINI reactor underscore the nation's scientific strength in this domain.

Advances across biology, chemistry, materials science, and nuclear medicine are accelerating the development of cancer therapies that are more effective, precise, and personalised. Many future treatment strategies are likely to be guided by an individual patient's unique genetic, environmental, lifestyle, and tumour factors.

Artificial intelligence will play a major role—from imaging and risk prediction to drug discovery, treatment planning, and post-treatment monitoring. As clinical research continues to advance, the gap between discovery and practice is expected to shorten.

(The author is a former director of radiological safety at the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board)

DID YOU KNOW?

Not all forests can act as carbon sinks

For decades, forests—especially the Amazon rainforest—have been widely described as natural carbon sinks, absorbing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than they release. This assumption shaped global climate strategies, framing forests as allies in mitigating greenhouse gas concentrations. However, new scientific evidence shows that this generalisation is now outdated and oversimplified. Not all forests function as carbon sinks today, and some, particularly those that are degraded or poorly managed, have already transitioned into carbon sources.

Historically, the Amazon's dense vegetation and humid climate have enabled rapid growth and long-term carbon storage. But recent research reveals that this capacity has weakened dramatically. Aircraft measurements taken between 2010 and 2018 show a striking regional imbalance: total carbon emissions in eastern Amazonia now exceed the carbon absorbed, with southeastern Amazonia acting as a net carbon source. This shift is especially pronounced during drought years and fire seasons, when carbon emissions spike due to burning and decomposition.

Multiple forces drive this change. Extensive deforestation for cattle ranching, soy production, logging, and mining continues to fragment large swaths of forest. Degraded areas dry faster and burn more easily, leading to recurring wildfires. At the same time, climate change has intensified droughts and raised temperatures, further stressing trees and slowing biomass recovery. As a result, the eastern and southeastern Amazon now emit more carbon dioxide than they store.

However, the wetter and less disturbed western and central Amazon remain closer to carbon neutrality, absorbing and releasing carbon in nearly equal measure. Importantly, forests governed by indigenous communities stand out as reliable sinks, removing an estimated 340 million tonnes of CO₂ each year. In forests outside indigenous territories—where deforestation rates are significantly higher—have collectively become net carbon sources.

The Amazon's transition illustrates a dangerous feedback loop: as forests degrade, they emit more carbon, which accelerates warming and increases the likelihood of further destruction. This is also a warning to other forests around the world.

These facts dispute the misconception that all forests are carbon sinks. Whether a forest absorbs or emits greenhouse gases depends on its condition, climate resilience, disturbance history, and management practices. Healthy, intact forests generally act as sinks, storing carbon in trees, soils, and vegetation. But degraded, drying, or rapidly deforested areas—including parts of the Amazon, Southeast Asia, and Central Africa—become sources of greenhouse gases.

- DHNS



DEATHS LINKED TO SIR: TMC delegation submits list of 40, accuses poll panel of bias

‘Blood on your hands’: Trinamool tears into EC

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Trinamool Congress delegation on Friday said it told Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar that he and the Election Commission “have blood on their hands” for the deaths linked to the “completely unplanned, reckless and heartless” Special Intensive Revision (SIR) now underway.

On its part, the EC said it had asked the Mamata Banerjee-led party “not to influence or threaten” officials involved in the exercise and to abide by electoral laws. It also urged Trinamool “not to interfere” with the independent functioning of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other state government employees deputed for election-related work, according to EC officials.

Sharing a list of 40 people who allegedly died due to the SIR, the 10-MP delegation led by Upper House floor leader Derek O’Brien also posed five questions to the EC, including whether the exercise was intended to push Bengalis out of the electoral rolls.

The delegation accused CEC Kumar of failing to address any of their concerns during his nearly “uninterrupted”



TMC MPs Derek O'Brien, Mahua Moitra, Satabdi Roy and other leaders address the media in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

- ‘HEARTLESS EXERCISE’**
- TMC team led by Derek O’Brien meets poll panel, calls SIR ‘unplanned and heartless’
 - Delegation says CEC Kumar didn’t address their concerns
 - Mahua Moitra says Bengal being singled out, questions omission of NE states
 - CEC says deletions limited to non-citizens, deceased, duplicates and relocated voters

one-hour response.

Later, O’Brien rejected the EC’s account of the meeting, calling it a “bag full of lies”.

Soon after the nearly two-hour meeting, O’Brien told reporters that Lok Sabha Deputy Leader Shatabdi Roy handed over the list, which included 18 Booth Level Officers, to the CEC.

He added that the meeting with Kumar and other commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

and Vivek Joshi began with the delegation telling them that “Kumar and the EC have blood on their hands”.

He said the Trinamool is not opposed to the concept of SIR but “strongly against the completely unplanned” exercise in which the CEC and Election Commissioners were going ahead with their job in a “completely heartless” manner.

He claimed Kumar was surprised at the list of 40 deaths

due to the SIR.

Sources said the CEC told the delegation that the exercise in Bihar was a “model” and sought their cooperation for its successful completion. He said that only the names of non-citizens, deceased, duplicate voters and those who have relocated were being deleted. Kumar urged them to wait until December 9, when the draft roll will be published, while stressing that there would be at least two months to rectify any anomalies.

The EC said it had given a point-by-point rebuttal to all apprehensions and allegations raised by the delegation. It asked Trinamool not to interfere with the independent functioning of BLOs, EROs and DEOs, who are state government employees deputed for election-related work. It also cautioned Trinamool leaders “not to threaten” BLOs.

The EC told the delegation that the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections are carried out in accordance with the Constitution and electoral law, and that the party must abide by them.

O’Brien rejected the EC’s account, calling it “a bag full of lies” and insisting that “nothing of this sort was said in the meeting”.

Another BLO dies in Gujarat; 4th by heart attack

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: A teacher working as a booth-level officer (BLO) for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in North Gujarat’s Mehsana district reportedly passed away following a heart attack on Friday.

Dinesh Raval (50) died in Sudasana village of the Santalsana taluka, where he was also working as a government teacher in a primary school.

Lakshadweep hits 100%

The Election Commission on Friday said Lakshadweep has become the first Union territory in the country to complete 100% distribution and digitisation of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration forms, reports PTI from Kavaratti.

The Union Territory completed the entire enumeration and digitisation exercise on November 28, it said.

The draft electoral roll is scheduled to be published on December 9, 2025, the EC added.

According to local reports, Raval had been working at night for the past four to five days to upload documents to the server as it was not functioning properly during the day due to internet connectivity issues. Raval was reportedly under stress to meet the deadline.

This is the fourth instance of a BLO dying of a heart attack in the state. On November 20, 40-year-old BLO Arvind Vad-

her died by suicide, blaming the stress of his duty in the SIR.

Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said, “In our country, elections are regarded as independent and fair, but those responsible for conducting them are under constant stress. Every day, strange occurrences are happening with the BLOs. This issue doesn’t lie with the people, but with the policies.”

Akhilesh asks NDA allies, Oppn to unite against ‘mega conspiracy’

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav termed the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) being conducted by the Election Commission (EC) a “mega conspiracy” against the country, which would push it toward a situation “worse than colonialism”.

In a video shared on his X handle, Akhilesh said that SIR was not only a “revision of the voters’ list” but a “tool by which the rights of the common people could be curtailed slowly”.

“Today the voters’ names are being removed... tomorrow there will be interference

in land records, ration cards, caste certificates, reservation and later on the bank accounts of the middle class and lockers,” he said.

The SP president appealed to Opposition parties and the NDA alliance partners to unite against this “mega conspiracy”.

Akhilesh also claimed that the BJP and its allies had planned to take control of the election system and alleged that changes were being made in the poll rolls with the help of some corrupt officials.

He warned the NDA allies that the BJP would finish them first.

Tourists stuck in ‘sky-dining’ restaurant rescued in Kerala

IDUKKI, PTI: Four tourists, including two children, were stranded about 150 feet above ground near Anachal on Friday after the crane lifting a ‘sky-dining’ restaurant malfunctioned.

The group was stuck for over two hours before the fire and rescue personnel reached the site around 4 pm after learning about the incident from news reports. The team rescued the four-member family safely. Visuals on television showed personnel climbing ropes to reach the restaurant.

The two children and their mother were brought down first, followed by the father and a female restaurant staff member. By around 4.30 pm, all four tourists and the staff member had been safely evacuated.

The staff member told TV channels that there was no panic as they had received training to handle such situations. She said the family was from Kozhikode.

A fire official said the restaurant management did not seek assistance from the fire and rescue service, but units from Munnar and Adimali were dispatched after reports of the incident emerged.

A Police official said that the crane’s hydraulics appear to have malfunctioned, leaving the restaurant suspended over a hundred feet above ground. Locals reported that the tourists had been stranded since around 1.30 pm.

Maoists signal surrender ahead of deadline

Express willingness to lay down arms collectively by January 1

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Days after announcing February 15, 2026, as their deadline to lay down arms, the Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh (MMC) special zonal committee of CPI (Maoist) has now expressed willingness to surrender collectively by January 1.

In an audio message and written statement released on Thursday, which came to light on Friday, MMC zonal committee spokesperson Anant also provided cadres with a radio frequency to share their views on the surrender process. He urged cadres not to delay initiating contact, and appealed to the Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh governments to broadcast the appeal on the radio within two days.

He also appealed to CPI (Maoist) members across the zone to suspend all operations until the process concluded peacefully, urging them not to take any action that could disrupt the initiative, which could prevent the progress

toward peace.

He also requested that the surrendered top Maoists communicate the message to the three state governments and help ensure the process is completed peacefully.

Anant reaffirmed that the group would not observe the People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Week this time, and requested that the government cease all security operations during this period. “We will soon release an audio appeal for all our comrades, urging them to listen and contact each other immediately,” he said. “We request everyone to maintain discipline and patience, and not surrender individually. We are preparing for a united return to the mainstream — not scattered surrender, but complete reintegration.”

The Maoists are reportedly open to surrendering before the chief minister or home minister of whichever state extends the most positive cooperation to conduct the process peacefully over the next month.

Anant referenced a recent statement by Chhattisgarh Home Minister Vijay Sharma, who suggested on the radio that 10-15 days would be sufficient for such a process.

While respecting the minister’s willingness, Anant clarified that such a short window was insufficient and emphasised that the January 1 date should not pose a problem.

Building new dams no longer viable: Minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Insisting that the building of new dams was no longer viable due to high costs, land acquisition hurdles, and shrinking river flows, Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil on Friday said that the Centre and states have to join hands for large-scale water conservation, community participation, and ground-water recharge.

“It takes 25 years and Rs 25,000 crore to build a dam. Do we have that much time?” he said.

The minister urged states to align with the Centre’s push for conservation and emphasised the need for collective action.

TN braces for Cyclone Ditwah

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

After dumping unprecedented rains in Sri Lanka, Cyclone Ditwah will move towards Tamil Nadu where the Cauvery Delta region and northern parts of the state are likely to witness intense rainfall from Saturday.

The DMK dispensation has asked Collectors in 14 districts to take precautionary measures to ensure that people don’t get impacted by the cyclonic storm.

While Delta districts such as Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, and Nagapattinam will receive very heavy rains on Saturday, the rainfall in Chennai and other northern districts will begin on Saturday evening and intensify on Sunday. Southern districts Ramana-



Waves crash against a seawall during rough sea conditions triggered by Cyclone Ditwah in Ramanathapuram on Friday. PTI

thapuram, Thoothukudi and Sivaganga experienced heavy rains on Friday.

Red alert and orange alert have been issued to multiple districts for Saturday and Sunday.

Independent weather bloggers have said that Ditwah will

not be a “typical windy cyclone” but will dump huge amounts of rainfall for two days beginning November 29.

The state government has positioned about 12 teams from the NDRF and 16 teams from the SDRF in the districts that are likely to be affected.

Putin visit: Focus on key military move

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DEPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENT

- Putin to visit India Dec 4-5 for 23rd annual summit
- Russian president’s first India visit since Ukraine war began in 2022
- Ahead of visit, Russia moves to put in place arrangement for deployment of military assets in each other’s territory
- To enable both countries to send troops, warplanes and warships for joint military drills, training sessions etc

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to host Russian President Vladimir Putin in early December, Moscow has moved to establish an arrangement with New Delhi to facilitate the deployment of military personnel, warships and warplanes in each other’s territory.

The arrangement will enable both countries to send troops, warplanes and warships for joint military drills, training sessions, humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and “other cases as agreed by the sides”.

Modi and Putin will hold the 23rd India-Russia annu-

al summit and discuss ways of expanding bilateral trade and deepening cooperation in nuclear energy, defence and space. Putin will pay a state visit to New Delhi from December 4 to 5 — his first since Russia launched its “special military operations” in Ukraine in February 2022. His last visit to India came just weeks before

ordering the latest offensive against Ukraine. During the visit, he will meet Modi and President Droupadi Murmu.

Modi will host Putin even as US President Donald Trump has claimed success in persuading India to reduce oil imports from Russia.

Moscow has moved to ratify an agreement with New Delhi

about the procedures for dispatching Russian and Indian military units, warships and warplanes to each other’s territory, as well as for organising mutual technical and logistical support for the defence assets. The two sides had inked the agreement earlier this year.

The summit, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, will provide an opportunity “to review progress in bilateral relations, set the vision for strengthening the ‘Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership’ and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest”.

Putin’s office said the visit would provide an opportunity to discuss the extensive agenda of bilateral relations.

SOLE STORIES

Footwear heritage exhibition in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Friday inaugurated “Tales Below the Heels” — a three-day national seminar and exhibition on the footwear heritage of India — at the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) campus in Hyderabad.

Jointly organised by the Pleach India Foundation and the FDDI, the event brought together scholars, designers, students, artisans, and heritage enthusiasts to celebrate India’s footwear traditions in an academic yet immersive setting.

The Governor described the event as “well thought-out and beautifully presented”. He said it was an “out-of-the-box”

approach to heritage documentation, noting how conventional scholarships have often focused on the iconography of sculptures and monuments while overlooking the very footwear these historical figures wore.

“We study the posture, ornaments, and the symbolism of our sculptures, but we rarely pause to notice what lies below the heels,” he remarked. “This exhibition fills that gap and brings to light a dimension of our cultural heritage that has been hidden in plain sight,” he said.

Recognising the event’s potential to reach wider audiences, Dev Varma strongly recommended that “Tales Below the Heels” be developed into a travelling exhibition.

India witnessing cultural renaissance: PM

PANAJI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India is witnessing a “cultural renaissance”, and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, and the expansion of the Mahakal Mahalok in Ujjain reflect the “awakening” of the nation.

The PM was addressing a gathering after unveiling a 77-foot-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram as part of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Jeevottam Mutt’s 550th year celebrations at Partagali, in Cancona, South Goa. It is the tallest statue of Ram in the world, as per the Goa government.

“The restoration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, grand redevelopment of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, and expansion of the Mahakal Mahalok in Ujjain, all these reflect the awakening of our nation, which is advancing its spiritual heritage with renewed strength,” Modi said.

This renaissance will inspire future generations to stay



A 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Ram unveiled in Goa. PTI

connected to their roots, Modi said.

Referring to Goa’s history, Modi said there were times when Goa’s temples and local traditions had to face destruction.

“It was the time when the language and cultural identity came under pressure. But these circumstances could not weaken the spirit, instead, they contributed to determination.

This is the uniqueness of Goa,” the prime minister added.

Lauding the Mutt, Modi said over the past 550 years, this institution has endured “countless cyclones” of time.

“Eras changed, periods changed, many transformations occurred in the country and society, but amidst changing eras and challenges, the Mutt did not lose its direction; rather, it emerged as a centre that provides direction to people, and this is its greatest identity,” he said.

The path to “Viksit Bharat” (developed India) passes through unity, the prime minister said, adding, “When society comes together, when every region and every section stands united, only then a nation makes great strides.”

The prime minister also inaugurated a theme park based on Ramayana on this occasion, and said the new additions will become permanent centres of meditation, inspiration and devotion for the coming generations.

HC quashes Assam MLA’s detention under NSA

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Six months after Assam MLA Aminul Islam was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) for his alleged comments about the Pahalgam terror attack, the Gauhati High Court on Thursday quashed the detention order under the Act and ordered his release if he was not wanted in any other case.

Islam is a member of the Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) and is an MLA from the Dhing Assembly constituency.

He was arrested on April 24 in Nagaon after a video circulating on social media purportedly showed the MLA alleging that the Pahalgam terror attack was orchestrated by the Central government and its key functionaries.

He was granted bail by a court in Nagaon on May 14.

However, he was detained hours later under the NSA for trying to “incite public unrest by spreading misinformation and hatred”.

On July 3, the Advisory Board for the NSA allowed his detention for one year.

The court on Thursday quashed the NSA order on the ground that there was no explanation from the authorities about the delay in dealing with the representation filed by Islam.

“Coupled with this, the petitioner was never informed about his right to represent to the detaining authority, and further, his right to represent to the Central government came to be informed to him only after the Central government reminded the additional secretary to the government of Assam, with a copy of the Nagaon district magistrate,” the court said in its order.



Aminul Islam

SC allows Maha local body polls, results subject to quota verdict

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Maharashtra government and its state election commission (SEC) to conduct local body elections and made it clear that all results, including where the 50% ceiling on quotas has been breached, will depend on its verdict.

The SC also said that as many as 27 pleas concerning OBC reservation in local bodies will be taken up for final hearing by a three-judge bench on January 21, 2026.

In Ma, the SC had directed Maharashtra and the SEC to conduct the elections within four months and to grant OBC reservation based on the legal framework that existed before the Banthia Commission report.

Senior advocate Balbir Singh, appearing for the SEC, said that the 50% ceiling on the quota has been breached only in 40 municipal councils and 17 nagar panchayats. He said there are a total of 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats where the poll process has begun, and there are “only 40 municipal councils, out of 246, where reservation is exceeding 50%, and similarly, there are 17, out of 42 nagar panchayats, where this ceiling is breached”.

Meanwhile, the SEC on Friday announced that campaigning for the elections in Maharashtra will conclude on December 1.

Congress seeks urgent debate in Parliament on Delhi air crisis

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday demanded a discussion on Delhi’s air pollution in Parliament during the Winter Session beginning on December 1, as he questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s silence on the “health emergency” arising from the situation.

He also called for a “strict and enforceable” action plan to tackle air pollution, after hosting a group of mothers at his residence and holding a discussion on the issue.

Sharing a video of his interaction with them, he said on X, “Every mother I meet tells me the same thing: her child is growing up breathing toxic air. They are exhausted, scared and angry. Modi ji, India’s children are choking in front of us. How can you stay silent? Why does your government show no urgency, no plan, no accountability?”

In the video, Rahul claimed that pollution persists because certain stakeholders benefit from it and, “to put it bluntly, they are more powerful than you.”

Woman killed, 2 others injured in IED blast in Jharkhand

CHAIBASA (JHARKHAND), PTI: A woman was killed and two others were injured in an IED blast in Jharkhand’s West Singhbhum district on Friday evening, police said.

The improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in the Saranda forest under the Jeraikela Police Station area, a senior officer said.

“A group of women had gone to Kolbhonga area in the forest to pluck ‘sial’ (silk cotton tree) leaves, and stepped on the IED planted by Maoists, and the device went off,” West Singhbhum SP Amit Renu said.

One of them died while two others were injured, the SP said.

“The injured are being treated at the Manoharpur hospital, and their condition is reported to be stable. If the need arises, we will shift them to another hospital for better treatment,” Renu said.

The SP termed this act as a “sign of desperation by the Maoists” due to the intensive combing operation being carried out against them by the security forces.

US to permanently pause migration from ‘third world countries’

Trump vows freeze after the killing of US soldier by Afghan national

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he would suspend migration from what he termed “third world countries”, a day after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard soldiers in Washington, killing one of them.

His social media post, which also threatened to reverse “millions” of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, marked a fresh escalation in his hardline anti-migration stance.

Trump said earlier that Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member deployed in Washington as part of his crackdown on crime, had died from her wounds.

The FBI has launched an international terror investigation as new details emerged about the alleged gunman, a 29-year-



US President Donald Trump holds up a photo as he speaks to troops via video from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach on Thursday. AP/PTI

old Afghan national said to have been a member of the “Zero Units”—a CIA-backed counter-terrorism group—according to multiple US media reports.

The shooting on Wednesday, described by officials as an “ambush-style” attack, has brought together three politically incendiary issues: Trump’s controversial deployment of the military at home, immigration, and the legacy of the US war in Afghanistan.

“I will permanently pause migration from all Third World

Countries to allow the US system to fully recover,” Trump wrote online. He linked the shooting to his decision to send hundreds of National Guard troops to the capital.

“If they weren’t effective, you probably wouldn’t have had this done,” Trump said. “Maybe this man was upset because he couldn’t practise crime.”

Joseph Edlow, Trump’s director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, said he had ordered a “full-scale, rigorous re-examination of every

green card for every alien from every country of concern.” His agency later pointed to a list of 19 countries — including Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, Iran and Myanmar—facing US travel restrictions under a previous Trump order issued in June.

More than 1.6 million US green card holders—roughly 12% of the permanent resident population—were born in the countries listed, according to the latest immigration data available on the agency’s “Eligible to Naturalise Dashboard”.

Keep doors open for asylum seekers: UN

UN agencies on Friday appealed to Washington to continue allowing asylum seekers access to the country and to be given due process after Trump vowed to freeze migration from “third world” countries following an attack near the White House, Reuters reports from Geneva.

Asked to respond to Trump’s remarks, UN human rights office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence told a Geneva press briefing: “They are entitled to protection under international law, and that should be given due process.” UN refugee agency spokesperson Eujin Byun echoed those remarks. “When people who need protection arrive in their territory, they have to have a due process of asylum.”

Over 80 dead as cyclonic storm slams Sri Lanka

India launches operation to assist neighbour

COLOMBO, PTI

Sri Lanka on Friday grappled with one of its worst disasters as cyclonic storm Ditwah wreaked havoc, causing floods and landslides that left more than 80 dead, amid a trail of destruction and damage to infrastructure.

India launched ‘Operation Sagar Bandhu’ to assist Sri Lanka in its hour of crisis, and the first tranche of relief materials was handed over after the consignments were transported by the Indian Navy’s aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and frontline ship INS Udaigiri to the island nation.

The relief came as Sri Lankan authorities warned of an “unprecedented disaster situation” in the Western Province from Friday night due to rising water levels in the Kelani and Attanagalu rivers. Both Colombo and Gampaha are under se-



A consignment of Indian humanitarian aid is being handed over to officials in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka on Friday. PTI

vere threat, prompting officials to urge residents in vulnerable areas to evacuate, they said.

Late on Friday, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) confirmed more than 80 people have died, while 34 remain missing in the past three days, as rescue operations intensify, according to NewsFirst.lk.

The DMC said as many as 1,48,603 individuals from 44,192 families were suffering due to widespread flooding, while approximately 14,000 people had taken shelter in 195 emergency centres. Scores of houses were destroyed completely or partially, leaving

thousands homeless as Cyclone Ditwah unleashed torrential rainfall, triggering extensive flooding, landslides in central hill regions and major disruptions in other parts that have left several areas inaccessible.

“It is unlikely this situation will change. We expect the Kelani River’s water levels to exceed those recorded during the 2016 floods,” Director General Ajith Gunasekara said.

The Indian High Commission said India has so far provided 4.5 tonnes of dry rations and 2 tonnes of fresh rations, including staple foods and other nutritional essentials.

Airbus issues major A320 recall after flight-control incident

PARIS, REUTERS

Europe’s Airbus said on Friday it was ordering an immediate software change for a significant number of its best-selling A320 family of jets, in a move that industry sources said would involve some 6,000 aircraft—over half the global fleet.

Airbus said in a statement that a recent incident involving an A320-family aircraft had revealed that intense solar radiation may corrupt data critical to the functioning of flight controls. “Airbus acknowledges these recommendations will lead to operational disruptions to passengers and customers,” the company said.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency will issue an emergency airworthiness directive, Airbus added.

For about two-thirds of the affected jets, the recall will result in a relatively brief grounding as airlines revert to a previous software version, industry sources said.

However, the scale of the operation is expected to cause significant disruption, emerging just ahead of the busiest travel weekend of the

SAFETY FIRST

■ Airbus orders immediate software rollback for around 6,000 jets—more than half the global fleet—over threats from solar radiation

■ Two-thirds of affected aircraft will face short groundings, but hundreds may need hardware changes

year in the US. Hundreds of jets may also require hardware changes, leading to weeks out of service. Industry sources said the incident that triggered the sweeping repair action involved a Jet-Blue flight from Cancun, Mexico, to Newark, New Jersey, on October 30.

Flight 1230 made an emergency landing in Tampa, Florida, and several people were taken to hospital after a flight-control problem and a sudden, uncommanded drop in altitude. According to Airbus data, there are around 11,300 A320-family aircraft in operation worldwide, including 6,440 of the core A320 model.

Khaleda Zia's condition ‘extremely critical’

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia’s health condition is “extremely critical”, a close aide said on Friday.

The 80-year-old former premier was admitted to a hospital on Sunday night when she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs.

“Last night, the doctors said that her physical condition is extremely critical,” BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was quoted as saying by BSS

news agency. The BNP organised special prayers after the Friday prayers for the speedy recovery of the party’s chairperson. “We have sought prayers from the people across the country after Jumma prayers for the recovery of the ‘Mother of Democracy’, Begum Khaleda Zia. We pray that she may recover and return to the people,” Fakhrul added.

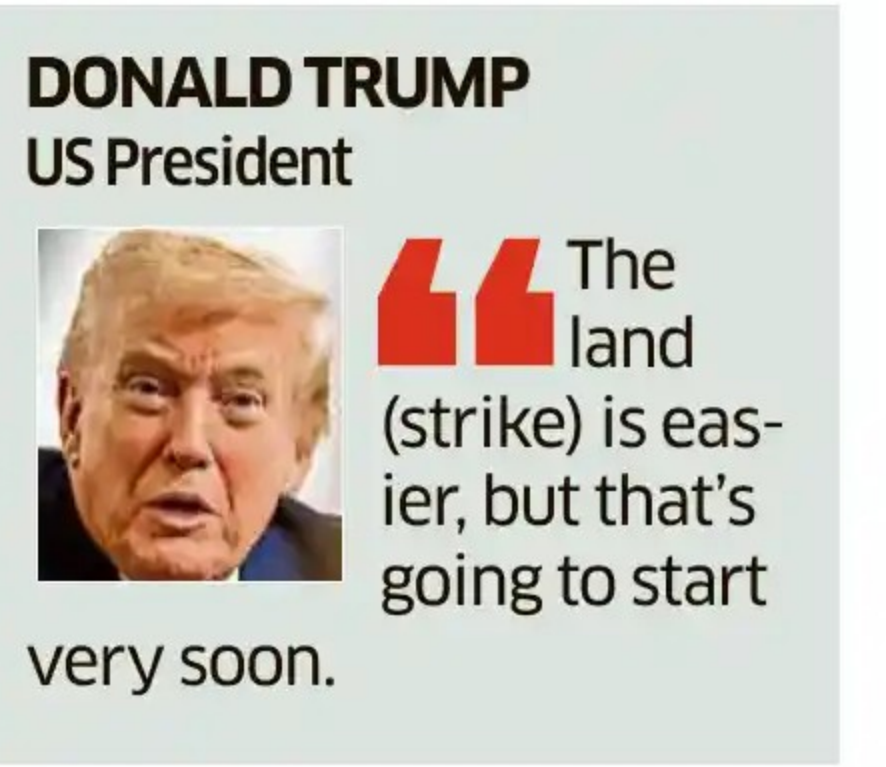
Zia has been suffering from multiple health complications, including liver and kidney issues, diabetes, arthritis, and eye-related illnesses.

US to strike against Venezuelan drug traffickers on land

PALM BEACH, REUTERS

The United States will “very soon” start taking action to stop suspected Venezuelan drug traffickers on land, President Donald Trump said on Thursday.

“You probably noticed that people aren’t wanting to be delivering by sea, and we’ll be starting to stop them by land also. The land is easier, but that’s going to start very soon,” Trump said, speaking virtually with US military service members. The Venezuelan



communications ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration has been weighing Venezuela-related options to combat

what it has portrayed as President Nicolas Maduro’s role in supplying illegal drugs that have killed Americans. Maduro has denied having any links to the illegal drug trade.

US forces in the region so far have focused on counter-narcotics operations, even though the assembled firepower far outweighs anything needed for them. US troops have carried out at least 21 strikes on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean and Pacific since September, killing at least 83 people.

Hong Kong tower fire toll climbs to 128

HONG KONG, AP/PTI: Hong Kong firefighters on Friday searched a high-rise tower complex apartment by apartment for more victims after a massive fire engulfed seven of its eight buildings, killing at least 128 people.

Crews prioritised apartments from which they had

received more than two dozen calls for assistance during the fire but were unable to reach, Deputy Director of Hong Kong Fire Services Derek Armstrong Chan told reporters.

The toll rose to 128 on Friday afternoon after more bodies were found in the blackened towers. Secretary for Security

Chris Tang said the search for victims was continuing and that the numbers could still rise.

The fire began on Wednesday in one of the complex’s eight towers and spread rapidly to neighbouring buildings after bamboo scaffolding covered in renovation netting caught alight.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ	
ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಜಿ.ಜಿ.ಮಾಗಾವಿ ಛೇಂಬರ್ಸ್, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ರೋಡ್, ಹಾವೇರಿ- 581110.	
ಸಂಗ್ರಾಣಣ/ಒದಗಾಹಾ/ಮರಳು/2025-26	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-11-2025
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮರಳು ನೀತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮರಳು ನೀತಿ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಳು ಗಣಿಗಾರಿಕೆ, ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಲಾಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ & ಪೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಮರು-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ. (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)	

ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ತುಂಗಭದ್ರಾ ನದಿ ಪಾತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ- ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ 3 ಪೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯವಿಧಾನಗಳು ಪೂರೈಸಿದ ನಂತರ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾರೋಪಿಸಿ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 05(ಐದು) ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪ್ರಾಕೃತಿಕ ವಿಕೋಪಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಅವಧಿ ಸಹಿತ) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು / ಕಂಪನಿ/ಫರ್ಮ್ ಇವರುಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮರಳಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ, ರಸ್ತೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ & ಪೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮರಳಿನ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ.								
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎಕರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.ಪಕ್ಕ	ಅಕ್ಷಾಂಶ ಮತ್ತು ರೇಖಾಂಶ		ವೀರಶಾಲಿ ವಿವರ
01	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಚಂದಾಪುರ	01	12-20	2,8 & 55	N 14 47 46.1	E 75 40 41.8	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
						N 14 47 50.4	E 75 40 44.1	
						N 14 47 41.3	E 75 40 55.3	
						N 14 47 39.1	E 75 40 51.8	
						N 14 47 42.6	E 75 40 47.7	
02	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಹೊಳೆ ಆನ್ವೇರಿ / ಕೋಟೆಹಾಳ	01	12-20	8, 19 & 21	N 14 29 19.4	E 75 41 05.3	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 29 17.7	E 75 41 08.7	
						N 14 29 05.3	E 75 41 03.8	
						N 14 29 06.9	E 75 40 59.9	
03	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಪತ್ತೇಪುರ	02	12-20	24, 25, 26 & 27	N 14 25 25.6	E 75 38 24.6	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ
						N 14 25 24.3	E 75 38 28.2	
						N 14 25 39.0	E 75 38 32.7	
						N 14 25 39.6	E 75 38 29.3	
04	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಹರನಗಿರಿ	03	12-20	175, 176 & 177	N 14 46 00.7	E 75 43 17.5	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 46 00.4	E 75 43 21.5	
						N 14 45 45.6	E 75 43 20.0	
						N 14 45 45.6	E 75 43 16.7	
05	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಐರಣಿ	01	12-20	91 & 92	N 14 34 26.1	E 75 48 57.3	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 34 28.2	E 75 49 01.1	
						N 14 34 19.9	E 75 49 06.8	
						N 14 34 14.1	E 75 49 08.6	
						N 14 34 13.6	E 75 49 05.7	
						N 14 34 20.8	E 75 49 02.3	
06	ಹಾವೇರಿ	ಹಾವನೂರು	01	12-20	264, 271, 272 & 273	N 14 51 50.2	E 75 42 02.7	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 51 49.3	E 75 42 06.2	
						N 14 52 04.5	E 75 42 09.1	
						N 14 52 05.4	E 75 42 05.7	
07	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಉದಗಟ್ಟಿ	01	12-20	2,3 & 4	N 14 41 23.1	E 75 44 12.3	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 41 23.1	E 75 44 15.9	
						N 14 41 07.8	E 75 44 18.4	
						N 14 41 06.6	E 75 44 15.3	
08	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಮೇಡೇರಿ	01	12-20	243 & 438	N 14 40 39.7	E 75 45 13.8	ವಿಶೇಷ ಚೇತನರು
						N 14 40 42.5	E 75 45 14.8	
						N 14 40 36.5	E 75 45 32.2	
						N 14 40 33.7	E 75 45 31.4	
09	ಹಾವೇರಿ	ಹಾವನೂರು	02	12-20	253,254, 263 & 264	N 14 52 06.4	E 75 42 07.5	ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ
						N 14 52 22.4	E 75 42 08.3	
						N 14 52 22.3	E 75 42 11.6	
						N 14 52 06.1	E 75 42 10.9	
10	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಐರಣಿ	02	12-20	88, 89 & 91	N 14 34 42.3	E 75 48 47.9	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 34 43.6	E 75 48 50.5	
						N 14 34 28.1	E 75 48 59.8	
						N 14 34 26.6	E 75 48 57.0	
11	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಬೇಲೂರು	06	15-00	136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 144 & 145	N 14 44 14.9	E 75 45 09.9	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 44 21.4	E 75 45 20.9	
						N 14 44 14.5	E 75 45 22.0	
						N 14 44 10.8	E 75 45 13.0	
12	ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು	ಹರನಗಿರಿ	05	12-20	173 & 174	N 14 46 12.3	E 75 43 16.9	ಇತರೆ
						N 14 46 12.5	E 75 43 20.7	
						N 14 46 10.3	E 75 43 22.0	
						N 14 46 07.0	E 75 43 22.5	
						N 14 46 04.3	E 75 43 22.2	
						N 14 46 01.4	E 75 43 21.6	
						N 14 46 01.7	E 75 43 17.1	

India hopes to seal first tranche of US trade deal by year-end

Goyal says country in talks with 50 nations for fair deals

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India is hopeful of finalising the first tranche of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States by the end of 2025, which will address the issues related to high tariffs, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Friday.

“We are very optimistic and very hopeful that we should find a solution within this calendar year,” Agrawal said at an event organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

He said at the negotiators’ level, most outstanding issues have been resolved and the final call would have to be taken at the “political level”. Agrawal has been leading India’s side at the BTA negotiations, which

was launched in March. So far, six rounds of negotiations have been held. Apart from the structured physical negotiations, officials from the two sides have also been holding virtual meetings to iron out the differences.

According to the Commerce Secretary, officials from India and the US are engaged in two parallel negotiations—one for the long-term bilateral trade agreement, and the other a short-term deal to address the issues related to the high tariffs.

US President Donald Trump’s administration has imposed a steep 50% tariff on import of a majority of Indian goods. This includes 25% reciprocal tariffs and an additional 25% penal tariff for India’s economic engagement with Russia.

According to the top Indian



DEAL TALKS SO FAR

- Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal says most outstanding issues have been resolved at the negotiators’ level, while final call would have to be taken at the “political level”
- Officials from India and the US are engaged in two parallel negotiations
- First tranche of trade deal would focus on addressing issues related to both reciprocal and penal tariffs
- Union minister Piush Goyal says trade negotiations with Canada will restart next week

trade official, the first tranche of the trade deal would be focused on addressing the issues related to both the so-called reciprocal and the penal tariffs.

India and the US were initially targeting completion of the first tranche of the BTA deal by the fall 2025 (September-October). “With any trade negotiations, the final deadlines cannot be because even if there is one sticking point or one sticking issue, which is in the mind of even one of the partners, the trade deal may not meet that deadline,”

Agrawal said, underlining the last-minute hurdles.

Earlier, speaking at the same event, Commerce and Industry Minister Piush Goyal said India is deepening its global trade outreach through negotiations at multiple levels.

The minister announced that at present, India is negotiating FTAs with 14 countries or blocs representing around 50 nations. It includes the 27-nation European Union. Other countries include Oman, New Zealand, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Goyal said the trade negoti-

ations with Canada will restart next week.

“At this point, we are in talks with 14 group of countries collectively representing around 50 countries of the world. Our focus is on countries of significance where we complement each other,” the minister said.

“We are talking to Oman, while Bahrain and Qatar want to enter into negotiations with India along with the GCC countries. We are also talking to New Zealand, simultaneously with Australia on second-stage agreement,” he added.

Aakash puts Byju’s parent TLPL’s Rs 25-cr allotment on hold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) has put on hold Byju’s parent Think & Learn Pvt Ltd’s (TLPL) share allotment, citing concerns that the Rs 25 crore it remitted does not comply with FEMA, the Companies Act, 2013, or the ECB (External Commercial Borrowing) guidelines.

The board recently concluded a Rs 100-crore rights issue and approved the allotment of shares to the Manipal Group and Beeaar Investco Pte Ltd, which contributed Rs 58 crore and Rs 16 crore, proportionate to their shareholding of 58.8% and 16%, respectively.

TLPL is currently undergoing a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP). Resolution Professional (RP) of TLPL had opposed the rights issue before the NCLT, NCLAT, and the Supreme Court. But TLPL tried to



subscribe by depositing Rs 25 crore.

AESL in a statement said that on its insistence for clarity about compliance of funds, the RP provided the Debenture Subscription Agreement executed between TLPL and Byju’s Alpha Inc (a Delaware-incorporated investor), along with a legal opinion stating that the subscription money did not violate FEMA laws.

AESL then obtained independent opinions of a former Supreme Court justice and a retired RBI general manager, who indicated that the debenture issuance and the inflow of funds did not comply with FEMA, ECB Guidelines, or the Companies Act.

“It is clear that the money received by TLPL is in the nature of a loan/debenture in the framework of external commercial borrowing and cannot be used for the purpose of acquisition of equity i.e., shares in Aakash. If any inquiry was undertaken by a regulatory authority, Aakash could be accused of having allowed a rights issue, thereby enabling an ECB to be used for the purposes of investment into equity,” Sanjay Garg, Head – Legal of AESL, said.

After considering all legal opinions, the board deferred allotment of shares to TLPL until the pending issues are adjudicated by the NCLT, Bengaluru. The Rs 25 crore deposited by TLPL is likely to be kept in a separate interest-bearing account, pending final decision, the statement added.

AESL also indicated that the company may initiate another Rs 140-crore Rights Issue shortly.

Over 61% of consumer queries resolved using Gen AI: Meesho

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based e-commerce company Meesho, which has fixed a price band of Rs 105 to Rs 111 per share, is all set to focus more on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in order to maintain its competitive advantage and to drive sustainable growth.

The SoftBank-backed e-commerce platform’s maiden IPO will open for subscription on December 3, and it will comprise a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,250 crore and an Offer for Sale of up to 10.55 crore equity shares.

At its IPO press conference on Friday, Meesho Co-founder and Chairman Vedit Aatreya, and Co-founder, Whole-time director & CTO Sanjeev Kumar said 61.4% of consumer queries are resolved using Gen AI and that a portion (Rs 1,390 crore) of the net proceeds from the IPO will be invested in its subsidiary MTPL (Meesho Technologies Private Limited) to drive activities across many focus areas, including advancing AI-led innovation through Meesho AI Labs.

The company has proposed to utilise the net proceeds also towards payment of salaries (Rs 480 crore) to its existing and replacement hires for ML



Vedit Aatreya

and AI & technology teams for AI and technology development undertaken by MTPL. The net proceeds will also be used to fund inorganic growth through acquisitions and other strategic initiatives.

Aatreya said there are 234 million annual transacting users and 7,06,000 annual transacting sellers. The platform has over 50,000 active content creators. Meesho is set to list at over Rs 50,000 crore valuation at the upper-end of the band. He added that they wanted to pick a valuation that attracts the right long-term shareholders.

Meesho monetises its platform through services that are provided to sellers, such as order fulfilment, advertising and data insights. According to its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus, in fiscal 2023, Rs 298.36 in fiscal 2024, to Rs 274.27 in fiscal 2025, and was Rs 269.36 in the three months period ended June 30, 2025.

Also, the company has reduced its Average Order Value (AOV) from Rs 336.71 in fiscal 2023, Rs 298.36 in fiscal 2024, to Rs 274.27 in fiscal 2025, and was Rs 269.36 in the three months period ended June 30, 2025.

Rs 4.5k cr reserved to upgrade SCL

MOHALI, PTI: The government plans to invest Rs 4,500 crore to modernise state-owned chip company Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) over the next three years, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

SCL, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is

the only integrated device manufacturing unit in the country providing end-to-end solutions for the development of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), opto-electronics devices, and Micro Electro Mechanical System (MEMS) devices. He said the Centre has requested the Punjab government for 25 acres to support the expansion.

RBI fines HDFC Bank Rs 91 lakh

MUMBAI, PTI: A penalty of Rs 91 lakh has been imposed on HDFC Bank for violating certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, the RBI said on Friday.

The penalty has been imposed on the private sector lender for deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance, including those related to KYC.



HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhdsdp@gmail.com & cekhdsdp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1.2&3/AE-3.5.6&8/TND/2025-26/2869 Date:28.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in TwoTender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate Estimate cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Up-Gradation of 60 to 100 Bed MCH at Hosapete in Vijayanagara District (work approved under NHM)	571.00	8.57	11 Months
2	Up-Gradation of 60 to 100 Bed MCH at Gangavathi in Koppal District (work approved under NHM)	578.00	8.67	11 Months
3	Up-Gradation of Existing 50 to 100 Bed MCH at K.R.Nagara, Mysuru District (work approved under NHM)	305.00	4.58	09 Months
4	Up-Gradation of 50-100 Bedded MCH at Athani in Belgavi District (work approved under NHM)	628.00	9.42	11 Months
5	Construction of 50 bed critical care unit Hospital in the premises of Taluk Level Hospital at Bailhongala Belagavi District (work approved under PM-ABHIM)	1703.00	17.03	15 Months
6	Providing Audio & Video System, AC System & Interiors to Lecture hall and Auditorium of Chamarajanagara Institute of Medical Sciences Chamarajanagara District. (work approved under Medical Education)	680.00	10.20	11 Months
7	Repairs and Renovation to New Surgical block and Staff quarters of Taluk Level Hospital KGF in Kolar District (work approved under state sector).	149.00	2.25	06 Months

Calendar of Events for SI No: 1 to 6 works: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **29.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**, Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **30.12.2025 at 16.01 hrs.** **Calendar of Events for SI No:7 work:** (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **15.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**, Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **16.12.2025 at 16.01 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru



Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/T(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AE-1/2025-26/9602-04 Date: 27.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KPTCL invites tenders for various works in Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru on **Partial Turnkey Basis** for the following works in KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Enquiry Number / Name of the work
	Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(OZ)/TKR/SEE(O)/AE-1/2025-26/Bid Enq-0040, 0041 Dated: 25.08.2025 and Bid Enq-0044, 0045, 0046 Dated: 11.09.2025 (Breakers will be supplied by KPTCL). CALL-2.
1	Providing Additional 01 No. of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Out Door type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel(1F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB at 66/11kv Pattanayanakanahalli sub-station, Madhugiri Operation Division.
2	Providing Additional 02 Nos. of 350MVA, 20KA, Out Door type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel(2F+1AP for 2 feeders) SCADA compatible PCVCB required at 66/11kv Brahmasandra sub-station, Madhugiri Operation Division
3	Providing Additional 02 Nos. of 11kv MEI Make PCVCB type feeder breaker at 66/11 kV C.T.Kere sub-station, in Tumakuru Operations Division.
4	Providing Additional 01 No of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Out Door type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel(1F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB required at 66/11KV Chikkabanagere sub-station, in Madhugiri Operation Division.
5	Providing Additional 02 Nos of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Out Door type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel(2F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB required at 66/11kv Bukkapattana sub-station, in Madhugiri Operation Division.

The Tenders will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink ‘**E Procurement KPTCL**’ or to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **01.12.2025**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Elec.),
Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, “Prasarana Bhavana”, 1st Floor, 66/11KV Tumakuru Sub-station Premises, Tumakuru-572103.

Karnataka startups see 40% dip in funding in 9M 2025

Witnesses 59% drop in late-stage funding

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tech startups in Karnataka have raised only \$2.7 billion from January to September 2025 (9M 2025), a 40% decline from \$4.5 billion they raised in 9M 2024 and a 23% drop from \$3.5 billion in 9M 2023.

According to a report released by market intelligence firm Tracxn, the nine-month period witnessed a noticeable slowdown in large-ticket rounds, impacting overall capital flow into the ecosystem. However, early-stage investment reached \$1.1 billion, a 20% increase compared to \$914 million in 9M 2024 and a 26% rise from \$871 million in 9M 2023. This shows growing investor confidence in emerging startups.

While seed-stage funding stood at \$287 million, a 22% decline from \$366 million in 9M 2024 and a 21% decrease from \$361 million in 9M 2023, late-stage funding stood at \$1.3 billion, a 59% decrease from \$3.2 billion in 9M 2024 and a 41% decline compared to \$2.2 billion in 9M 2023.

FinTech, Enterprise Ap-



plications, and Retail were the top-performing sectors in Karnataka during 9M 2025. The FinTech sector recorded \$841 million in funding, an increase of 38% compared to \$608 million in 9M 2024, but a decrease of 21% compared to \$1.1 billion in 9M 2023. Enterprise Applications saw \$830 million funding in 9M 2025, a 19% decrease from \$1.0 billion in 9M 2024, and a 26% decline compared to \$1.1 billion in 9M 2023. The retail sector recorded \$730 million in 9M 2025, a 43% drop from \$1.3 billion in 9M 2024, but a 10% increase compared to \$663 million raised in 9M 2023.

“Karnataka’s funding dip this year is largely the result of a sharp slowdown in late-stage capital, not a slowdown in innovation,” Serial Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of Assiduous Global, Somdutta Singh, said.

The state saw a 59% drop in late-stage funding and far fewer 100-million-dollar rounds, which was just two this year compared to eight, last year.

“At the same time, early-stage funding actually grew 20% year-on-year, signalling that founders are still building and younger companies continue to attract strong investor confidence. What we are witnessing is a reset in large cheques, as investors prioritise profitability, governance and sustainable business models,” she said.

As we head into 2026, capital will likely become more selective, but also more focused on deep tech, AI, enterprise applications, and infrastructure-led companies. However, this dip masks the fact that the quality and direction of Karnataka’s startup ecosystem remain strong and forward-looking, Singh added.

Hyundai, Tata, others want India to drop emission concessions seen ‘benefiting’ Maruti Suzuki

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: India’s biggest carmakers want the government to scrap a weight-based emission concession for small cars under planned new efficiency rules, a move they say benefits just one company, letters seen by Reuters show.

Tata, Mahindra, JSW MG Motor and Hyundai are concerned that a weight-based relief risks hurting India’s EV goals, while helping a single player, according to letters they wrote to the Centre. They did not name the player, but industry data shows and three executives told Reuters that Maruti Suzuki would be the main beneficiary.

Maruti, the biggest seller of small cars, told Reuters that global markets like Europe, US, China, South Korea, and Japan, all had provisions in their emission norms to protect small cars.

Under India’s Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency norms,

the quantity of permissible CO2 emissions applies to passenger cars under 3,500 kg.

The new rules propose tightening average CO2 emissions to 91.7 grams/km from an earlier target of 113 grams/km. This will make it tough for small cars to meet the target compared to SUVs, pushing companies to sell more EVs.

In its latest draft, India has proposed leniency for petrol cars weighing 909 kg or less, measuring under 4 metres, and with engine capacity of 1200 cc or less as they offer “limited potential for efficiency improvements”.

This has created a split between India’s leading EV-focused firms and Maruti — for whom 16% of sales come from cars weighing under 909 kg — causing delays in finalising regulation crucial for automakers to plan future products and powertrain investments.

Three executives said the 909-kg threshold was arbitrary and did not align with global standards, alleging that the move only benefited Maruti. In a letter to the Power Ministry, Mahindra requested omission of a “special category” or definitions based on size or weight. “(This) can have adverse effects in terms of the nation’s progress towards safer, cleaner cars, and can alter the level playing field for industry players,” it said.

Hyundai told the industries ministry that the exemption may be perceived internationally as a step backward, at a time when global markets are converging toward stricter fuel-efficiency and zero-emission standards.

Maruti said that small cars consume much less fuel and emit less CO2 than bigger cars, so having this “safeguard” will help both CO2 reduction and fuel saving.



Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Date: 28th November 2025

ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM – 05
EXTENSION OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE

Ref: (1) RFP No. BMRCL/PD/ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/2025-26/06 dated 17.09.2025
(2) Writ Petition No. 32551/2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka
Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had floated a tender on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) on 17.09.2025 for the Grant of Concession to Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain Advertisement Rights on Selected Piers & Portals of the Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink, and Blue Corridors of the BMRCL network, vide reference cited above. This tender was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in W.P. No. 32551/2025. The matter came up for hearing on 30th October 2025 and 26th November 2025. On 30th October 2025, the Hon'ble High Court had stayed the further operation of the tender. Upon further hearing on 26th November 2025, the Hon'ble High Court recorded the grievances/issues of the Petitioners in relation to Clause 5.11, 6.6 and Table 12 (Clause 8.5) of the tender and directed as follows:
“Any tenderer who satisfies the requirements of participating in the tender may be permitted to participate in the tender, subject to the decision of this Court in respect of the aforesaid issues.
Additional objections, if any, to be filed by the respondents **by 01.12.2025**. Relist on **04.12.2025 at 4.00 p.m.**
Subject to the above, the respondents are permitted to issue a fresh schedule for submission of bids, etc.
However, respondents are restrained from finalising the tender until the above matter is heard and decision is rendered.”
In view of the above directions of the Hon'ble High Court, the fresh schedule for submission and opening of bids for the tender mentioned at reference (1) has been extended as under subject to the conditions mentioned as above:-

Particulars	Existing Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
Last date & time for submission of tender	13.11.2025, 17:29 hrs	08.12.2025, 17:29 hrs
Date & time of opening of tender	17.11.2025, 11:00 hrs	10.12.2025, 11:00 hrs

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on: **05.12.2025 at 15.00 hours at BMRCL Conference Hall, 3rd floor, BMTC Complex, KH Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru 560027**

Since the KPP Portal was automatically locked for issuing corrigenda after the last permissible date of 13.11.2025, and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Court, the same tender document (without any modification whatsoever) has been reissued on the KPP Portal to allow submission of bids up to 08.12.2025. Any interested bidder can participate in the tender notwithstanding the eligibility under Clause 5.11 and 6.6 of the Tender document, the eligibility is subject to the outcome of the writ petition.

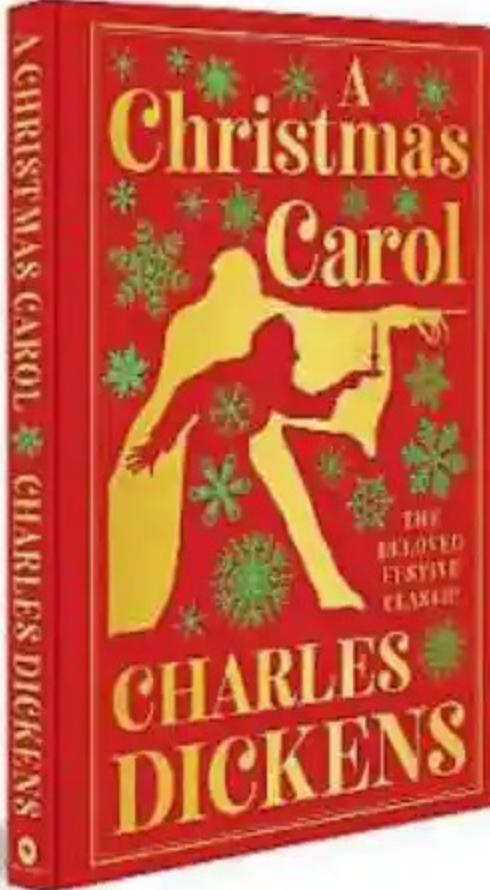
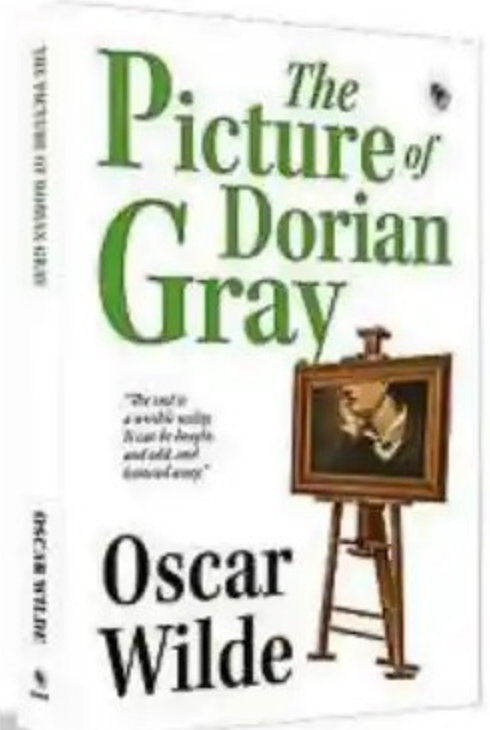
All bids submitted pursuant to the earlier notification stand cancelled, and bidders are required to resubmit their bids in response to this corrigendum issued. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

For bid submissions visit e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **29.11.2025 onwards**. The details can also be accessed from BMRCL website www.bmrc.co.in

Sd/- Director (Finance)

CLASSICS aren't boring

Valsala Rajan writes about why some timeless books still stay with us



A young friend asked me the other day for recommendations of classic books to get started on. For most people, the very word ‘classic’ unfortunately, does not mean something that has been valued and read for a long time, but something that’s boring, stodgy and has difficult language. If it’s been read and reread by many people, many times, there surely has to be a reason. The other day, I read a modern-day romantic novel. It was rather nice and seemed an original take until it started giving me a sense of déjà vu. It was a modern take on an old Dickens novel — one of my favourites, in fact. Anyone who has read some Shakespeare would have experienced this feeling time and again as they watch movies or read a gripping ‘new’ novel. (Indeed, even our daily conversations use about 1,700 words that Shakespeare in-

roduced!) We all build on what has gone before. Themes and human emotions are identifiable and have remained more or less the same, with few tweaks, down the centuries. Falling in love, coming of age, taking revenge, the fight between good and evil, laughter, fear, guilt, the philosophies that guide us, and so on, have been a part of human lives forever! Often, it’s the sight of a fat volume with what seems to us to be difficult sentences that puts us off. So today, let’s discuss a few tiny ‘big’ novels that are classics worth a read. And... we’ll stick with books that are entirely readable in terms of language! Since I mentioned Dickens, let’s begin with him. ‘A Christmas Carol’ is a ghost story and was originally published just before Christmas in 1843. By Christmas Day, it was a bestseller and

nearly 200 years later, it continues to be read and loved. Scrooge is the original Grinch. And when we call stingy people a Scrooge, we are referring to Dickens’ creative genius — sometimes without even knowing it! Oh, and though Scrooge gets visited by 4 ghosts (one of them is even quite jolly) throughout the book, it’s Scrooge who is spooked and not the reader. And the most famous quote? Just two words: “Bah! Humbug!” expressing Scrooge’s attitude towards Christmas. ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’ by Oscar Wilde is another rather spooky story,

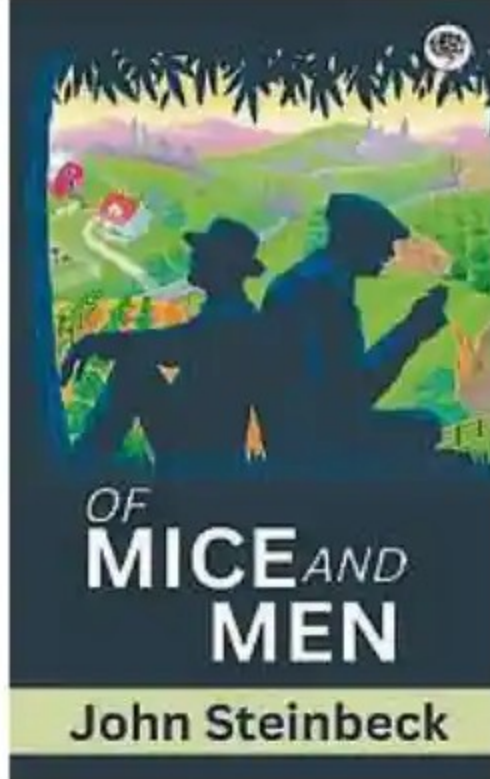
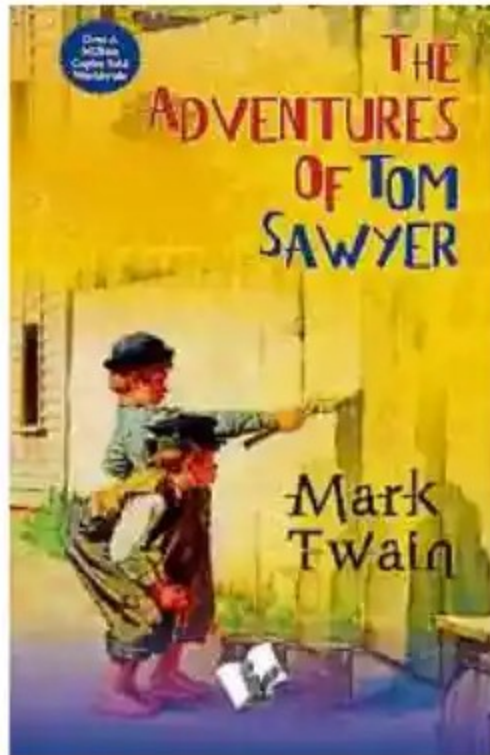
though without ghosts. Dorian Gray is paranoid about losing his looks and becoming old, so when he has his portrait painted, his fear that that beautiful face would one day fade away has him make a deal with the devil. No matter what kind of life Dorian leads, it’s the portrait that shows the effects of his lifestyle. Dorian himself remains youthful and good-looking. ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’ was criticised heavily at one time for ‘immorality’. Oscar Wilde’s take: “The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame.”

Moving on to lighter stuff, let’s talk about ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer’ by Mark Twain. A little boy who doesn’t want to go to school, doesn’t want to do chores, just wants to have fun. Does that sound like someone you know? If you’re Tom Sawyer, you’ll find ways around chores as often as possible. Such clever ways, in fact, that his friends actually pay Tom to do his tasks! “He had discovered a great law of human action, without knowing it — namely, that in order to make a man or a boy covet a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to attain.” Tom’s a natural master of human psychology. John Steinbeck’s ‘Of Mice and Men’ is one of my favourite books. It’s a tiny, heart-wrenching story about George and his friend, Lennie. Today, we would say that Lennie is ‘on the spectrum’, but in the early 20th century, he was

just mentally ‘off’. Life was hard, but George was kind. The two were itinerant workers, and the pair dreamed of a better life one day, which included a place of their own. Lennie’s gentle nature and immense strength are at odds, leading to a hard-not-to-cry moment. The bond that ties George and Lennie is probably best expressed by: “A guy needs somebody to be near him”.

‘The Catcher in the Rye’ by J D Salinger is about a 16-year-old, Holden Caulfield, who gets expelled from boarding school. This event prompts him to go on an adventure (and several misadventures) while he tries to make sense of the world. He often fails to do so and rails at the phoniness that surrounds him. As the most recent of the classics listed here, this is probably the most easily relatable. I’m spoilt for choice where quotes go on this one — there are so many that speak to us in the world we live in. “The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.”

There are so many more — but I did promise I’d talk only about the very shortest here.



experiments using sugar

...and other simple household items

Density rainbow

Materials needed

- 4-5 glasses
- Warm water
- Sugar
- Food colouring
- Teaspoons

Method

- 1) Fill each glass with the same amount of warm water.
- 2) Add different amounts of sugar to each glass — for example, 1 spoon



in the first glass, 2 spoons in the second, 3 in the third, and so on. Stir well until all the sugar dissolves.

- 3) Add a different food colour to each glass.
- 4) To make the rainbow, start with the glass that has the most sugar and pour it into a tall glass. Then slowly add the next one by pouring it over the back of a spoon so the layers don’t mix.

What happened?

The more sugar there is in the water, the denser the solution becomes. The densest layer stays at the bottom and the lighter layers float on top, creating a colourful “density rainbow”.

Cube challenge

Materials needed

- Sugar cubes (20-25)
- A spray bottle with a little water
- A plate

Method

- 1) Build a pyramid or tower using the sugar cubes.
- 2) Mist the cubes lightly — just 1-2 sprays is enough. This will act like “glue” to hold the cubes together. If you look closely after a few minutes, you’ll notice the edges of the cubes dissolving slightly.
- 3) Let the structure sit



undisturbed. As the water dries, the dissolved sugar will recrystallise, helping the cubes stick together.

- 4) Once dry, observe how the structure has become sturdy.

What happened?

Water dissolves a tiny bit of the sugar on the surface, and as it dries, the sugar hardens again. This process is called recrystallisation. This demonstrates how dissolution and recrystallisation work, while also letting children experiment with basic engineering ideas about how to build a structure that stays stable or balanced.

Should high-school students choose the subjects they learn?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

YES I think high schoolers should be allowed to choose their own subjects as John Dewey, an education philosopher said, “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”. Choice leads to better learning, greater motivation and a strong, reliable future. When students select subjects they genuinely care

about, they become active listeners instead of passive listeners. They show up to class with a lot of enthusiasm and spirit, ready to learn. “The mind is not an empty vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled,” said Plutarch. High school should not be a place where everyone is forced into the same academic mould, but a place where future doctors, astronauts, engineers and artists discover their paths. Amazingly said by Sir Ken Robinson, “Interest is the engine of achievement”, students learn better and engage more in classes of their own choice. High school is a time that should be utilised to an extent where you should not regret the choices you made in the future. If education is meant to prepare students for life, we must start by letting them make the



choices that life will demand.
SHRADDHA PRASAD M, 11
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NO I believe high school students should not be allowed to choose the subjects they learn. In this age, most of us are still figuring out our interests and strengths. If we are given full freedom, many might not choose or avoid challenging subjects like mathematics or science simply because they are difficult. However, these subjects build logical thinking and problem solving skills, and knowledge that will help us in any career. A strong base in all main subjects is important and helps us understand the world better. Learning languages helps us speak and express ourselves, science makes us curious about how things work, and history teaches us where we come from. If we stop learning some subjects too early, we might miss out on opportunities we aren’t even aware of at that age. Teachers and the education department make the syllabus carefully so that we learn everything we need before choosing a career.

As Albert Einstein once said, “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” This is why it’s better to learn a variety of subjects first and then decide what we really want to focus on. So no, students shouldn’t choose their subjects as a high schooler because freedom without direction isn’t smart but chaos. High school isn’t the time to choose, it’s the time to prepare.



PRAJNA VERNEKAR, 13
Udupi, Karnataka



LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Rudolf the reindeer

If you got the chance to have a conversation with Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer, who leads Santa’s sleigh, what would you like to know from him, and what would you tell him about you? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Open to children below 16 years. Don’t forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on December 4.



POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic ‘If I were an animal’ to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Entries close on December 11. Open to children below 16 years. Don’t forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.



ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme ‘Season’s specials’ to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Open to children below 16 years. Don’t forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on December 18.



terse

(adjective)

— using very few words, often in a way that sounds abrupt, curt, or slightly rude.

Usage:

— The teacher gave the class a terse warning and walked away.
— Rajan’s terse message made it hard to understand what he wanted.

Word of the Week



This Week:

Many Marks



Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Mark Twain was born on November 30, 1835. Which of his novels did 20th-century writer Ernest Hemingway praise

thus: “All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain”?

Q3 Mark Rylance gained considerable acclaim for his portrayal of Thomas Cromwell (a 16th-century statesman and lawyer) in a British television mini-series. What is the title of that show?

Q4 Canada’s prime minister, was earlier the governor of a ____

Rhyme Scheme: Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Mark Carney, features Mark Antony?
Use these clues.
a) Assassination
b) Brutus
c) Rome
d) July

Clue B: Heavy armoured fighting vehicle.

Scan the QR code

Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

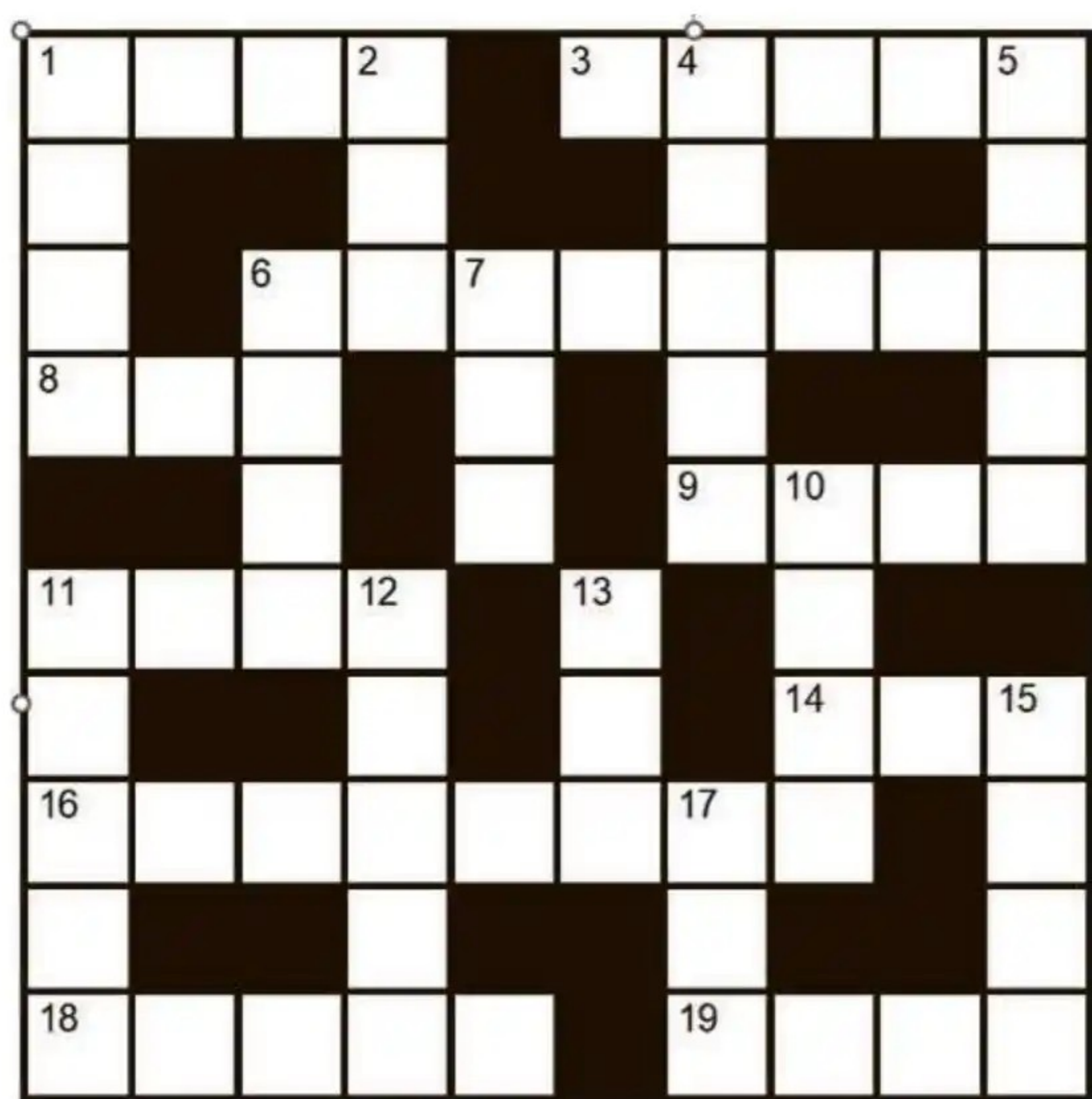


Q2 “I am the most famous dentist who never became a dentist,” declared Mark Spitz. Which sport earned him a record-breaking seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics?

Q5 Which Shakespeare play, besides ‘Antony and Cleopatra’, features Mark Antony?

LAST WEEK’S WINNERS: Alwin (16), Bengaluru; Keerthan Kumar (10), Hosapete; Hirithi H (14), Bengaluru.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 Winter precipitation (4)
3 Wintery feeling (5)
6 Roamed aimlessly (8)
8 A long narrow board used in winter sports (3)
9 Fever with shivering (4)
11 Deities (4)
14 Part of the lower limb (3)
16 Desire for food (8)
18 Very bad weather (5)
19 Monsoon precipitation (4)
Down
1 Soap and water froth (4)
2 Baby’s comic book cry (3)
4 Wild African hunter-scavenger dog (5)
5 Large serving spoon (5)
6 Strong breeze (4)
7 A small, sharp bite (3)
10 Very strong breeze (4)
11 Transparent material (5)
12 To promise (5)
13 Yes, in France (3)
15 Long, flowing dress (4)
17 Material used to surface roads (3)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Snow, 3 Chilli, 6 Wandering, 8 Skit, 9 Appetite, 18 Storm, 14 Leg, 16 Apron, 17 Tail.
Down: 1 Suds, 2 Waa, 4 Hyena, 5 Glass, 12 Sweat, 13 Owl, 15 Gown, 16 Lard, 17 Tail, 18 Storm, 19 Rain.



The crowd spills out from the stands to compound walls and stairs of a railway overbridge to watch the annual I-Day Cup tournament in Bengaluru. PIC: SANDEEP MENON

The East Ground in Bengaluru's Pulikeshi Nagar, a neighbourhood earlier called Fraser Town, sits between a busy road and a railway station. A self-effacing landmark, it is eminently missable. Yet, behind its high walls, it has nurtured several of the city's footballing greats.

Every year, on August 15, East Ground becomes a nucleus drawing the city's football fans. It hosts the final of the Independence Day Cup, a barefoot, small-sided tournament with a history spanning over half a century. It is at the same time the most famous and the least famous football tournament in the city.

The first time I witnessed this black tournament, so called because of its lack of affiliation with state associations, was in 2022. People spilled out from the stands onto the compound walls and even the railway overbridge. An elderly woman sold peanuts, while men read newspapers between games. With no barriers separating the stands from the game, the scene carried a sense of impending chaos.

The city is full of small-sized competitions, and many players have risen from these black tournaments to become legends. "People wanted to play and represent their area," says Louis Nickson, a former Mohammedan Sporting Club player from Austin Town. Isaiah Arumainayagam, a Mohun Bagan legend and 1962 Asian Games gold medalist from Gowthampura, says he "learned to play football on these Bengaluru grounds, in these August 15 tournaments". Another former footballer says consistently playing for local teams is a mark of a good player — proof that one can handle crowds and pressure. Austin Town, Gowthampura and areas in and around Cantonment have long dominated the football scene, a legacy stemming from the British military presence in Bengaluru.

But what was once a clash of neighbourhood teams is now open to talent from beyond their immediate area. The goal is to form the strongest possible team. This is similar to what happens with Manchester United — it no longer draws players just from the Manchester area.

By the time I visited East Ground, I had spent well over a year researching India's football subcultures. What got me there? Growing up, football was just entertainment for me. We played, we argued about teams and players. It took time for me to view it as a social and political space, as a marker of identity, and as a way of weaving self-worth into jerseys, colours, and emblems. I have never been to London, but I love Chelsea FC. They lose, and my weekend is ruined. I don't question why.

In the 1920s, the magazine *El Gráfico* described a unifying identity for Argentina through football in the form of pibe — a street urchin whose skill matched the cunning and street-smarts shaped by his upbringing.

Grassroots football in India

Lofty goals

In a country fixated on cricket, football thrives quietly. Sandeep Menon travels to 10 of India's football-crazy regions to study the subcultures keeping the game alive and kicking

ing. Decades later, Diego Maradona would become the living embodiment of the pibe. Brazil's football, Joga Bonito ('the beautiful game'), brims with flair, creativity, and individual expression. Their playing style echoes the rhythms of the Samba dance — footballers always and dazzle with brilliance, and always with a smile.

Style question

This made me wonder: what should an Indian style of football look like? Is it even possible to define an Indian style, given the diversity of our cultures, languages, and geographies? Conversations with Richard Hood and Pradhyum Reddy, whom I consider among the smartest voices in Indian football, deepened my curiosity. And as the partner of a PhD scholar, sometimes intimidated by her knowledge of culture and literature, I tried to find answers by reading far beyond my usual interests. It became clear that I needed to see local tournaments in their raw form, unencumbered by professional structures. I was working as a sports journalist then and I set out to 10 football-crazy pockets of India with a notebook full of questions.

Riverside rivalry

I drove three hours to see 'Sevens football' in Kerala. This is a seven-a-side version of the game. Umpteen such tournaments run in parallel, without cannibalising each other's audiences or income. I heard stories of rivalries between villages, some divided by a river, others by distinct playing philosophies.

In Meghalaya, I jumped into a car with a man I had met a day earlier. We travelled three hours to a small village to watch the packed 'basti' tournament in a quaint stadium surrounded by grasslands and hills.

In Mizoram, locals arrived in packed buses, braving cold, rainy evenings and waving team-coloured flags, to attend an inter-village tournament. The stadium sat on a hilltop, and distant hills glowed against the evening sky. It was a pretty sight. On the sidelines, my local contact and I chatted about his love for Bengaluru and his craving for roadside gobi manchurian.

I was curious about the football culture in Nagaland, the state that gave independent India its first football captain, Dr Talimeren Ao. But since the 1950s, it has struggled to produce talent despite an obvious passion for the game. I visited Manipur, India's greatest football talent factory, before the ethnic conflict began, and was unable to go there again. So I worked my connections and gathered information. While the Imphal Valley dominates player production today, I was surprised to discover the role of Ukhrul district, the land of the Tangkhul tribes, in the early rise of football in the state.

Kolkata was teeming with its 'khep' tournaments, a religion in the suburbs. Down south, in the Thoothoor village of Tamil Nadu, players battled it out near the ocean. In Goa, crowds thronged to watch a village tournament final, part

of the Feast Day festivities at local churches. Reminiscent of the three pillars that define Portugal — Fado (traditional music), Futbol (football), and Fatima (pilgrimage site) — the former colony has crafted its own version: Feni/fiesta, Fish, and Football.

Colonial defiance

The Birthplace Effect suggests that a person's place of birth plays an important role in their sporting success. At the same time, geographical, cultural and historical characteristics shape how a sport flourishes in the region.

Local histories revealed to me why the game mattered so deeply in certain regions. In Kolkata and the Malabar belt of Kerala, football traces its roots to its defiance of colonial rule.

Mohun Bagan's 1911 IFA Shield victory over the East Yorkshire Regiment, a story told and retold across generations, has become part of the social consciousness, firmly establishing the



An Easter football tournament takes place on a school ground in Thoothoor, a fishing village in Tamil Nadu. PIC: ANCHITHA KRISHNA

role of football in daily life. "For men who had lost in life, beating the foreigners at their own game was a major victory," a college professor who runs a local football team told me, sitting under a jackfruit tree in Areekode, Kerala. Elsewhere, the game spread with help from enthusiasts in the armed forces, educational institutions, and missionary groups.

Inspiring heroes

Football has also been harnessed as a tool to steer youth away from social ills. Local football heroes often become symbols of inspiration. To this day, people in Punjab's Mahilpur region speak of the exploits of the legendary defender, 1962 Asian Games gold medalist and Arjuna Awardee Jarnail Singh. "He hung a ball from a tree and practised headers for hours", "His strength came from drinking milk", "His chest size was massive". Since Singh, Mahilpur has consistently produced prominent footballers.

In the fishing village of Thoothoor, the craze for football turned into a viable profession after Louis Cleetus broke the mould, alongside coach E Sugumaran, who scouted for talent and took promising players to Chennai.

Mizoram found its inspiration in Shylo Malsawmtluanga aka Mama. His exploits for the top teams of the country at the turn of the millennium opened the doors for a generation of players. Lalrindika Ralte, seeing Mama featured in a local advertisement, dreamed of becoming a footballer, and he did. Jeje Lalpekhlua, Lallianzuala Chhangte, and scores of others followed. "I didn't expect to have this kind of impact," Mama admitted, starting across a field as hundreds of kids played football.

Alongside technology and television, football played a part in Mizoram's integration into the mainstream consciousness of India. For the state, the game became an olive branch following decades of conflict and demands for independence, which only ended in 1986 with the signing of the Mizoram Peace Accords.

"Through football, we started cheering for India. We see our sons, grandsons, or local boys playing for the country. Football has done a lot," Lalinghlova Hmar, a state minister and the 'father of Mizoram football', told me during an inter-village semifinal. He was attending the match, along with two other ministers, uninvited.

In Manipur too, sport and politics are deeply intertwined. Former chief ministers N Biren Singh and Yangmaso Shaiza were both footballers. The state has long held athletes in high regard, and used sport to stay physically prepared during skirmishes and warfare.

Journalists, officers, and politicians playing football together is a common sight in Meghalaya. Once, a friendly match between a team of army officers and bureaucrats, and another comprising politicians ended 5-0, with the former joking, "That is one goal for every year in power". In Kerala, the political connection is subtler. Growing up there, I played football surrounded

in the long ball game, where the ball is moved quickly upfield with long passes. "Everyone in Punjab is born with a sickle in one hand and a sword in the other," an army officer told me on a cold, windy day, decoding the warrior spirit Punjabis bring to the pitch.

The Sevens format suited Kerala because the early games were played in post-harvest paddy fields, which were smaller than a standard pitch. Today, many tournaments kick off under floodlights as they are avenues for evening entertainment. Goa also hosts 1 vs 1, 3 vs 3, and penalty shootout competitions in villages, depending on ground size and availability.

In Meghalaya, 'basti' games are often held on market days, both to entertain and maximise gate receipts. I watched men, women, and children from several villages stream into the grounds to enjoy the spectacle. Being a matrilineal society, women play a prominent role in running these tournaments in the Khasi Hills and supporting the economy around them. I saw them as referees, technical staff, and food vendors. Such a strong female presence is rarely seen in football tournaments elsewhere in the country.

Family distinction

The sport seeps into community life in unexpected ways. In Kerala, football is part of the everyday lexicon. Paral, a streaky freshwater fish, is used to describe a pacy winger. Football phrases like 'self adichu' (own goal), 'post maatalle' (don't change goalposts), and 'whistle adi' (blow the final whistle) are euphemisms for messing up, shifting topics, and signalling the end respectively. The assimilation is also seen in films. Dulquer Salmaan's character in 'Comrade in America' explains a romanticised notion of communism to his girlfriend while wearing an Argentina jersey sitting next to a playground. Bengali films depict the Ghoti-Bangal divide through the epic rivalry between Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

Tracing football histories at a micro level was challenging. Academic research is limited in regions other than Bengal. Interviews were insightful. Written documents were scarce. Players could often explain the "how", but rarely the "why". I sourced annual reports and souvenirs from associations. One researcher in Goa advised me not to take the documentation too seriously, while a football club associate in Bengaluru dismissed them as fiction. A casual remark in an interview often sparked legwork to confirm or refute claims.

But as I delved deeper, cultural parallels emerged and the dots began to connect. While migration is now discussed negatively, it has historically shaped football's growth. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, for instance, greatly influenced each other's football cultures. Two coaches from Bengaluru helped evolve the Goan style, while players from the city contributed to Kolkata becoming the Mecca of Indian football.

The nearly five years of research culminated in a book. I wrestled with the anxiety of representing the complexity of cultures and the fear of missing critical information. In the end, a book is never finished, rather, it is taken away from its author by an editor who knows the depths of the research rabbit hole.

And so I return to where the journey began: Bengaluru. Here, I witnessed what neighbourhood teams truly mean to football buffs, and where a single family with its roots in Shivajinagar has produced 11 footballers across three generations, including the incomparable 'snake charmer' of Indian football, Ahmed Khan.

(The author's book on football 'Sacred Grounds: A Journey Through People's Football in India' (Penguin Play), is just out.)

Like this story? Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in



A Kickabout on Morjim beach in Goa. PIC: DEEPAK MENON

MUSICANA

Hindustani music meets metal in Midhaven's new track

The Mumbai-based band tackles the subject of arrogance in its latest release, writes Swarna Srikanth

Metal band Midhaven's new single 'The veiler' boasts high energy. Believed to be the heaviest-hitter from their releases yet, this song is penned on the raag Todi of Hindustani classical music and it tackles the subject of arrogance personified as asura (anti-gods). The Mumbai-based band was formed in 2011 and it drew fame for one of its albums, 'Of the Lotus & the Thunderbolt', a homage to Shiva as Mahakaal. The band is known for fusing Indian mythology and classical music with

intense metal tunes. "The veiler" addresses the themes of hubris and conceit," says the Indian psych/sludge metal band's lead guitarist and vocalist Aditya Mohanan. "There's more than meets the eye with this song — layers that can be picked at, meanings that may just be more than what they seem," adds Midhaven's guitarist and vocalist Karan Kaul. The musicians share something interesting from the production. "We recorded dual guitars together. I do not think something like this has been attempted in the Indian metal scene until



Midhaven wrote their track 'The veiler' on Hindustani raag Todi.

now. Aditya and I sat down and recorded all the rhythm parts together with his mic picking up my frequencies, my mic picking up his frequencies, both of us

playing the whole song together," says Kaul, adding that the idea came from producer Apurv Agarwal. "Raag Todi has different meanings in the Karnatik and in the Hindustani traditions. It is an extremely complex raag in Karnatik music and by far the most challenging one that I've worked with. But we created 'The veiler' in the dhrupad style and I'm glad we used the Hindustani raag here," says Mohanan, who has a background in Indian classical music. Talking about the popularity and relevance of indie metal in India, Mo-

hanan says, "Post the pandemic, the genre has received far more attention and love in the country. Earlier, there was a structure that was set in stone. Indie metal was confined to colleges while now it's seen in diverse venues. Now, we have newer people, especially Gen Z kids, interacting with metal quite a lot and they have also been bringing new trends to Indian metal." In early December, Midhaven is travelling to Japan to support the metal bands Origin and Defleshed. In May 2026, the band will perform at the Desertfest in London.

Revisiting ‘Rangeela’: A tapori, a dream, a generation

Rashmi Vasudeva remembers the cult-classic that made a generation dress up, dance, and dream. The film was rereleased in theatres on Friday

Munna would’ve been thrilled to know how I first watched Rangeela. An evening show on day two, a hard-won ticket miraculously bought without resorting to “black,” though I was absolutely ready to. After surviving the serpentine queue, I landed in the notoriously rowdy ‘Gandhi class’ of Bengaluru’s Urvasi Theatre, surrounded by whistles, cheers and a few spontaneous backup dancers. All men, naturally. My mother, whom I’d dragged along, was muttering silent curses at everyone, starting, I’m sure, with Aamir. And then he appeared onscreen as Munna: scruffy, shirt-ends tied, smirk in place, chanting ‘dus ka tees’, and proceeded to dunk my heart, her grudging one, and the entire hall in a particularly filmi

shade of taxicab yellow. If ‘Andaz Apna Apna’ (1994) was a masterful parody of Bollywood, ‘Rangeela’ (1995) was a wholehearted celebration of the industry’s magic, mayhem, masala and that unmistakable *madhoshi* (rapture, though the word hardly covers it). Aamir’s Munna was impulsive, passionate, obstinate and often infuriating. He adored the glamour of the movies and distrusted it at the same time, a chaotic bundle of contradictions who could sing, dance, swear and care without missing a beat. And yes, this mast kalandar’s heart was resolutely gold. Munna, *yaaro*, embodied cinema itself — a conceit Ram Gopal Varma played with throughout, sometimes loudly, sometimes with a sly, almost invisible touch. If you can momentarily detach

yourself from the borderline vile, often insufferable social-media persona of today’s RGV, you might remember the filmmaker who once operated at the peak of his craft. ‘Rangeela’, on the surface, was just another love triangle, but what unfurled on screen was far more potent: a film that turned into a moodboard for a generation. It reshaped fashion, for one. Mili’s famous yellow dress was apparently stitched overnight. Her crop tops and swishing skirts sent every teen girl to her local tailor demanding replicas. And so, the then relatively unknown Manish Malhotra never looked back. It also revived how Hindi film music was marketed. The soundtrack dominated television long before the film opened, which simply wasn’t the norm then. Those songs created a



Urmila Matondkar and Aamir Khan play Mili and Munna.

genuine pre-release frenzy. ‘Rangeela’ was A R Rahman’s official Bollywood entry, and from here he vaulted into a different league altogether. ‘Tanha tanha’, ‘Yaaro sunlo’,

‘Kya kare’, ‘Mangta hai kya’ — each track grabbed a distinct mood and refused to let go. Cassettes wore thin from overuse. Visually, too, ‘Rangeela’ was a gamble RGV insisted on. He wanted gliding, free-moving frames and pushed to use Steadicams at a time when they were rare in mainstream Hindi cinema. The film’s aesthetic was uncluttered, the choreography famously “different” (read: unapologetically sexy), and the colour palette vibrant. Aamir added his own touches of lived-in authenticity: wearing mostly his own clothes, speaking tapori slang he picked up from boys lounging outside Famous Studios, and attacking his shoes with stones and mud so they looked broken-in. He played Munna with a noncha-

lant yearning that Hindi cinema has rarely matched. Rumour has it he was so disappointed about not winning the Filmfare Best Actor award that year that he stopped believing in awards entirely. Jackie Shroff, meanwhile, gave Raj Kamal a brooding, slow-burn charisma, while Urmila Matondkar infused Mili with such elan that she remains a pop-culture landmark even 25 years later. Together, they created a film with a cool quotient that Bollywood didn’t know it possessed. Even today, when the visceral ‘Rangeela re’ hits, you can almost smell the sea, feel your pulse quicken and sense your feet finding their own beat. There’s a bit of Mili in all of us, a pinch of Munna, maybe even a dash of Raj Kamal — and certainly a lingering smear of that taxicab yellow.

IFFI redeems itself with solid curation



The Vietnamese film ‘Skin of Youth’, directed by Ash Mayfair, bagged the Golden Peacock for Best Film at the 56th IFFI. It is a powerful tale of transgender identity, love, and resilience.

This year’s edition of India’s premier film festival, which concluded yesterday, regained audience faith with a remarkably good choice of films, writes **S Viswanath**

With Goa as its permanent port of call for 22 years, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), now in its 56th edition, draws cinephiles from across India. This year, it showcased contemporary films that were inclusive and pluralistic. Since its inception in 1952, IFFI has provided a platform for contemporary world cinema and fostered better appreciation. The festival, with 250-plus films in 90 languages from 81 countries, saw as many as 50 films by women directors. A new wave of talent took centre stage. With MAMI, the marquee festival in Mumbai, taking a break this year (they couldn’t find sponsors), IFFI was able to bring a double dose of celebrated films from across the globe. In the International competition, some of the notables included ‘The Visual Feminist Manifesto’, ‘Songs of Adam’, ‘A Poet’, ‘Little Trouble Girls’, ‘My Father’s Shadow’ and ‘Amrum’. The country focus this year was Japan, and ‘A Pale View of Hills’, about a widow’s memories spanning post-war Nagasaki and the cold war years in England, stood out. It is an adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro’s 1982 novel of the same name. There were at least 10 extra screens across Panaji this year, and that mitigated the crowding to a large extent. A good 50-65% of the films shown at the festival turned out to be not just crowd pullers but also efforts worthy of critical appreciation. In short, it was a well-curated festival.

Panaji streets
In a welcome and much needed departure from past editions, IFFI did away with the traditional opening ceremony. Instead, it had an ‘opening parade’, bringing pomp, pageantry, and a festive zing to the streets of Panaji. The famed façade of the Old GMC building and the Maquinez Palace theatre looked surreal as Panaji residents, tourists, and passers-by participated in the march. The parade also featured state tableaux from Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir,



FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to
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New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, and Goa, showcasing their cultural identities. Major production houses also positioned grand cinematic tableaux alongside a special NFDC 50 years’ tableau.

AI presence
Various innovative sections were introduced this time. In keeping with this year’s theme, ‘Convergence of Creativity and Technology’, IFFI launched the country’s first AI Film Festival in collaboration with Waves Film Bazaar and the tech firm LTIMindtree. The experiment got 68 entries from 18 countries, and picked 27 for the final. It also featured award-winning film packages from five international AI film festivals (Adobe Max, AI Film Festival from USA, Burano AI Film Festival from Italy, Metamorph AI Film Awards from UK and Omni Film Festival from Australia), besides 14 individual filmmakers from across the world. Another notable feature was the Cinema AI Hackathon. Bollywood’s AI-generated film ‘Being’ won the Best AI Visualised Film Award at the hackathon. Academic sessions included a discussion on ‘The new AI cinema’ and a masterclass by VFX wizard Pete Draper. NFDC Film Bazaar, rebranded as Waves Film Bazaar, was held parallelly. Its aim is to encourage collaborations in cinema—it featured stalls representing various states showcasing their film policies and initiatives. Karnataka was conspicuous by its absence.

Masterclasses
The academic sessions at Kala Academy were put together well, and saw full attendance throughout. The masterclasses attracted participants from Australia, Japan, Germany, and Canada. A panel discussed the evolving role of women in contemporary cinema. It featured actor Meenakshi Jayan, filmmaker Rajni Basumatary, cinematographer Powzia Fatima, and Australian actor Rachel Griffiths. The sessions on writing and editing provided a deep dive into many aspects of the craft, including its aesthetics. The 56th edition of IFFI reinforced audience faith in its curation. Many who made the annual pilgrimage to Goa returned blessed by cinema, and filled with reminiscence and reflection.

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

Small-town heist falls short

AMOGH RAVINDRA

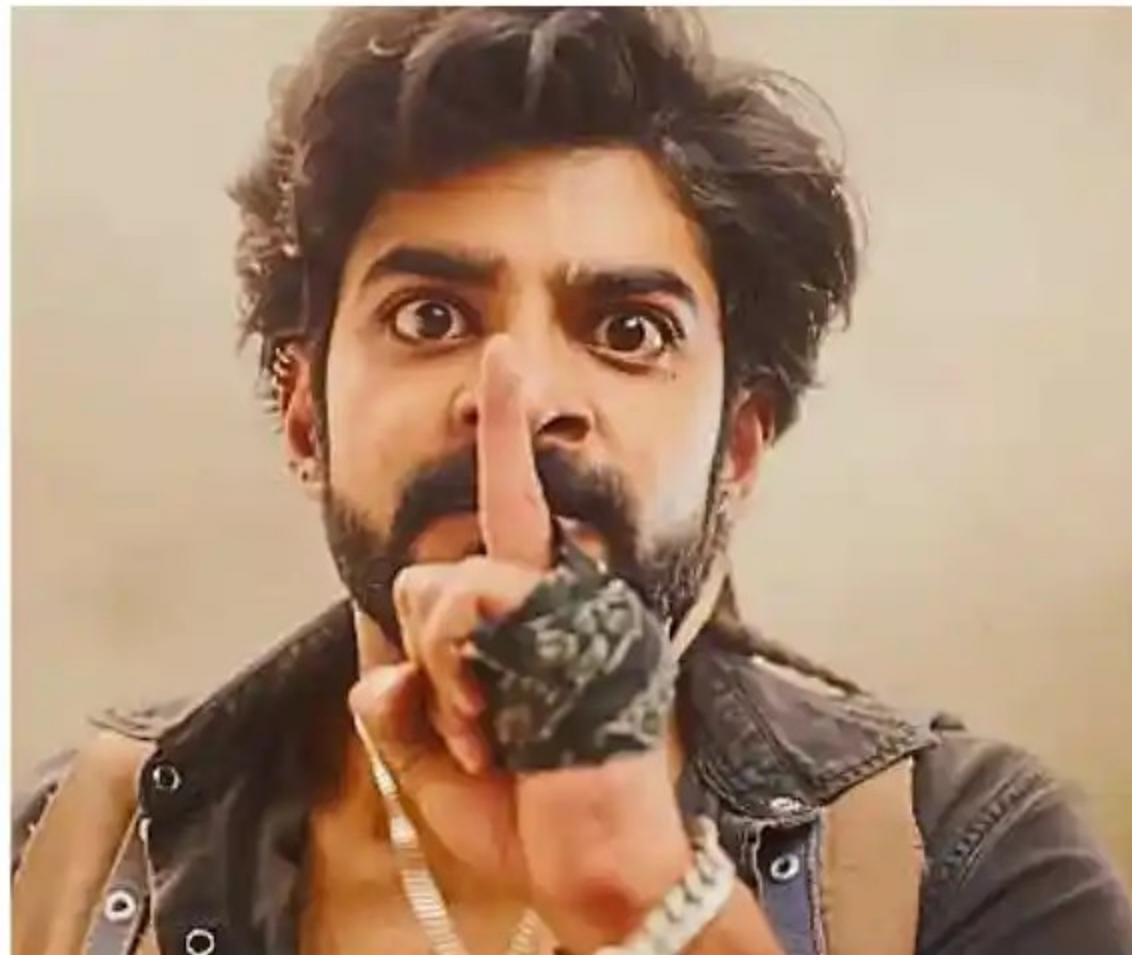


Bank of Bhagyalakshmi

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Abhishek Manjunath

Cast: Dheekshith Shetty, Brinda Acharya, Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Bharath G B



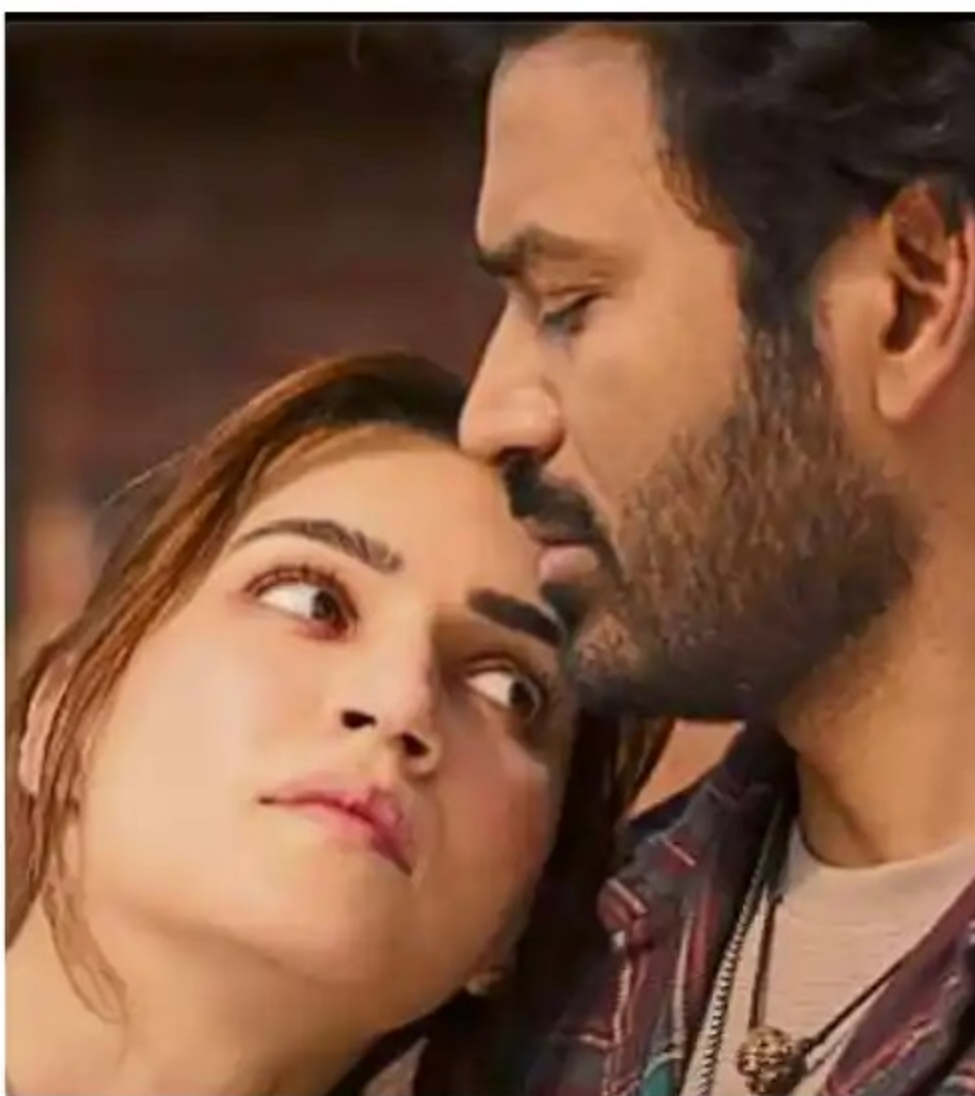
Dheekshith Shetty plays a thief.

What would happen if ‘Peepili Live’ met ‘Inside Man’ in rural Karnataka? ‘Bank of Bhagyalakshmi’ follows a gang of misfit thieves attempting a final heist near Hosadurga during election season, a setup that hints at chaos but never gains real momentum. The heist unfolds in perhaps the emptiest bank ever filmed, with the gang wearing animal masks bought from a balloon vendor. Dheekshith Shetty’s Kanaka, or Tiger, leads this unlikely group in what he calls a Rubbers (read Robbers) job. Soon the gang is trapped inside, and the question of whether they escape or get caught takes over, while local politicians keep their own secrets tucked away in the same building. Dheekshith pushes hard, but it often feels like he is carrying the film alone. The rest of the cast offers brief sparks, though Gopalkrishna Deshpande and Bharath G B are underutilised. The bank looks more like a government office, and the film leans on exaggerated and uneven humour to fill the gaps. The story has intent, but the execution shows more cracks than the bank’s terracotta facade. The music misses, the camerawork captures rural life well, the editing is slick, and the production design

never convinces. With elections in the backdrop, the chaos inside the bank spills outward, quietly satirising how a small-town mishap grows beyond its walls. But intention alone cannot steady the film. ‘Bank of Bhagyalakshmi’ has a sharp premise and brief sparks, yet the uneven execution keeps it from landing. A modest effort that shows potential but never rises.

Tale of love goes off track

TAHER AHMED



Kriti Sanon and Dhanush



Tere Ishk Mein

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Aanand L Rai

Cast: Dhanush, Kriti Sanon

Love can make the world a better place, it can also become the root cause for destruction when it gets out of hand, and love in this movie is so convoluted that it leaves you short of words. Shankar (Dhanush) is an angry young man who makes the college shudder with his presence and does not give a damn about authority. Mukri (Kriti Sanon) is a PhD aspirant whose thesis is about how anger can be eliminated. For her, Shankar is the perfect guinea pig who she can showcase to get her thesis approved, while for Shankar she is the perfect woman to fall in love with. The first half of the movie shows great chemistry between the two, even as Shankar vows to prove to Mukti and her dad, an IAS officer, that he will go to any lengths to have her hand. After toiling for three years and completing the task assigned by her father, Shankar returns to the engagement of his beloved, losing control and going back to his old ways. Logic takes a back seat. When he leaves her, his departing

words make her realise her love for him and she then goes on a downward spiral. Fate brings them together, and Shankar keeps his promise to her again. The second half is slow and excruciating at times, with the climax leaving little to the imagination. Win or lose, love in this movie will surely make you think twice.

Return to ‘Zootopia’, a memorable watch

SWEEKRUTHI K



Zootopia 2

English (Theatre)

Directors: Jared Bush, Byron Howard

Cast: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Ke Huy Quan



Nick Wilde and Judy Hopps from ‘Zootopia 2’.

Nearly ten years after a hyper-successful first movie, comes ‘Zootopia 2’, a sequel that has a lot to live up to. With strong writing, a distinctive background score and several familiar elements, the film proved to be a funny, memorable watch. The movie sees the well-loved Hopps-Wilde partnership make a return, with new territories, species and challenges. Its greatest success lies in its consistent quality of world-building — how the Zootopia world and history is expanded is fascinating. Beloved characters make a reprise, with the rat mafia, old enemies and accomplices drawing excited reactions from

viewers. The new characters — including a surprisingly hilarious beaver, a mysterious gecko and several amusing walruses — also pass muster, with some excellent voice acting from Andy Samberg and Fortune Feimster. The original cast also continues to liven up the script, backed by an almost-vintage thematic score. Unfortunately, where the writing

truly disappoints is evident in the character arc of the previously lovable Judy Hopps. In the first film, she was a clever, kind bunny and a great partner. In this one, Hopps’s exaggerated commitment to proving her worth comes off as unrealistically idealistic and uncharacteristic. Wilde is laidback, observant and

sarcastic, but ends up bearing the brunt of his partner’s unfair emphasis on heroism. In all, the movie presents a nuanced deeper message about prejudice and a call to look beyond appearances. The plot also comes with several unexpected twists, making the film engaging. Throughout, the jokes land easily, be it ones based on physical comedy or the odd, unexpected innuendo. Disney’s latest offering is definitely worth a watch, for the whole family. Watching the first film beforehand is recommended, to help with grasping the context and chuckling at the references. Also, make sure you stick around till the end of the credit roll, for a short but fun post-credits scene!

Reliving the days of shayari and love letters

SUBHASH K JHA

There is a sartorial elegance and old-world charm about ‘Gustaakh Ishq’. Not surprising, as it is produced by fashion designer Manish Malhotra. None of them are dressed to kill but viewers will be charmed by the gracefully draped sarees, minimalist sherwanis and the touch of nawabi language the characters occupy their crumbling havelis with. They are not willing to cry over ‘split mulk’. The characters are all Muslim. But they don’t recite the namaaz nor is the azan heard in the background. The narrative occupies its world comfortably. There is a sense of time coming to a halt as characters weave their way through courtship from behind veils and romance that cannot be found in an app. Shayari adds another layer to the luminous labyrinth of subplots. A young publisher, Nawabuddin (Vijay Varma), travels from his home in Delhi to a small culturally plush town in Punjab to learn from an aging poet Aziz (a magnificent Naseeruddin Shah). Predictably, Nawabuddin’s self-interest evaporates when he meets the poet’s quiet but determined daughter Minni (Fatima Sana Shaikh). It is a light story buoyed by excellent writing and Vibha Puri’s gentle direction. The pace, though languorous, never weighs on the



Fatima Sana Sheikh and Vijay Varma in the period film.



Gustaakh Ishq

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Vibha Puri

Cast: Vijay Varma, Fatima Sana Sheikh, Naseeruddin Shah

characters. These are people who belong to another era and are unapologetic about the absence of animation in their slow lives. The actors ensure viewers’ interest doesn’t flag even when the plot seems to be heading nowhere. The film is shot like a dream, with relics and monuments that come alive as characters. Gulzar’s lyrics are, as expected, an asset. However, Vishal Bhardwaj’s music is nothing we haven’t heard before. What works in the film’s favour is its deliberate ruminative mood.

Entertaining drama of a superstar and his super fan

JAGADISH ANGADI



Andhra King Taluka

Telugu (Theatres)

Director: Mahesh Babu P

Cast: Ram Pothineni, Bhagyashri Borse, Upendra, Rao Ramesh



Bhagyashri Borse and Ram Pothineni are the lead pair.

Director Mahesh Babu’s ‘Andhra King Taluka’ tells the story of a superstar and his superfan in a semi-urban setting. The story is set in the late ‘90s. It begins with superstar Surya (Upendra), who, after a string of flops is trying to make a comeback with his 100th film. Sagar (Ram Pothineni), Surya’s diehard fan, falls for his classmate Mahalakshmi (Borse), the daughter of Purushottam (Murali Sharma), a theatre owner in a backward village in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. Purushottam is not happy about his daughter’s choice and repeatedly humiliates Sagar. Insulted, Sagar vows to build his own theatre, and decides to inaugurate it when Surya’s 100th film drops, even as Surya struggles to complete the project. Will Surya complete his film? Will Sagar construct the theatre? Will Purushottam consent to Sagar and Mahalakshmi’s wedding? The film explores intricate human relationships as it tries to answer these questions. The first half sets up the story pretty well, but the second half feels a bit dragged out. Some scenes come across as forced affecting the narration. The story becomes predictable post-interval. However, impactful performances, evocative scenes, appealing visuals and lingering songs compensate.

Attempts to build a theatre in a remote village which lacks road infrastructure defies logic. Though execution of the plot falters at times, the climax makes up for it. Cinematographers Siddhartha Nuni and George C Williams beautifully capture the essence of village life — river banks, bylanes, processions, feverish energy of fans and theatre posters of the Godavari belt. Pothineni’s portrayal of a young man torn between loyalty and self-respect is top-notch. Borse’s restrained acting is impressive. Upendra and Rao are convincing in their roles. Despite flaws, ‘Andhra King Taluka’ keeps viewers engaged and entertained.



Jockey P Trevor powers Ice On Fire to victory in the Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas at the Bangalore Turf Club on Friday. OH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Ice On Fire wins main event

BENGALURU RESULTS

Ice On Fire, from the stables of Pradeep Annaiah and ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas, the first classic of the winter races on Friday.

1. Infinite Plate - 1200M: Moonveil (Maloji Bhosale) Trevor Patel 1; Starzel-la (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Burevestnik (Sandesh) 3; Atman (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 1.1-3/4, 1-1/4L; T: 1:13.25; Tote: Rs 16w; Rs 12, 13p; Fc: Rs 32; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 52 & 26; Exacta: Rs 79 & 64; TB: Shreyas Singh; Fav: Moonveil.

2. Kunchikal Falls (Div II) Plate - 1100M: Pandur (Kl. Gangdhar) Jagadeesh 1; Honest Desire (Antony Raj) 2; Roadrunner (N Darshan) 2; Estefania (Aleemuddin) NR; Glorious Spectre. WB: 2-3/4, 7, 3L-Nk; T: 1:07.11; Tote: Rs 26w; Rs 11, 13, 13p; Fc: Rs 102; Q: Rs 73; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 154 & 59; Exacta: Rs 566 & 260; TB: Shoban Babu. Fav: Roadrunner.

3. Snap Plate - 1400M: Eagle Eye (Arun Kumar) Trevor Patel 1; Star Of India (Nesaraj Rawal) 2; Pole Star (Antony Raj) 3; Sapporo (Pavan) 4; WB: 5L, Snd; Shd: T: 1:24.11; Tote: Rs 16w; Rs 12, 15, 12p; Fc: Rs 55; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 93 & 36; Ex: Rs 773 & 504; TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Eagle Eye.

4. Hyderabad Silver Vase - 1600M: Emphatic (M Rishad) Nesaraj Rawal 1; Sekhmet (Rayan Ahmed) 2; Global Influence (Sural Narreddy) 3; Kaizami (Trevor Patel) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 3/4, 1L; T: 1:37.10; Tote: Rs 16w; Rs 10, 60p; Fc: Rs 91; Q: Rs 76; Shp: Rs 71; Thp: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 326 & 81; Ex: Rs 420 & 381; TB: Purushotham. Fav: Emphatic.

5. Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas - 1600M: Ice On Fire (P Arun Kumar) Trevor Patel 1; Elysium (Akshay Kumar) 2; Sunshine (Sandesh) 3; Bishop (Sandesh) 4; WB: 2, Shd; 3L; T: 1:37.43; Rs 43w; Rs 14, 22, 12p; Fc: Rs 691; Q: 332; Shp: Rs 92; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 2,876 & 942; Ex: Rs 26,506 & 11,359; TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Mountain Jewel.

6. Kunchikal Falls Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Run For The Sun (Kaliyaperumal) Al-eemuddin 1; Noble Cause (Trevor Patel) 2; L-C (Pavan) 3; Shalimar (Sai Kiran) 4; WB: 1/2, 6-1/4, 1-1/2L; T: 1:06.98; Tote: Rs 18w; Rs 10, 14, 15p; Fc: Rs 50; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 140 & 147; Ex: Rs 2,322 & 2,116; TB: Arjun Mangalolkar. Fav: Run For The Sun.

7. Godavari Plate - 1400M: Turkoman (Imtiyaz Khan) Laxman Singh 1; Infinite Spirit (Pavan) 2; NRI Gold (Antony Raj) 3; Striking Eyes (Jagadeesh) 4; NR: Mystical Queen. WB: 4, 1-1/2, 1-3/4L; T: 1:28.08; Tote: Rs 51w; Rs 18, 31, 16p; Fc: Rs 1,096; Q: Rs 285; Shp: Rs 132; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 1,331 & 417; Exacta: Rs 19,615 & 16,812; TB: Imtiyaz Khan. Fav: NRI Gold.

Jackpot: Rs 1,782 (256). **Runner-up:** Rs 129 (1516). **I treble:** Rs 112 (593). **II treble:** Rs 621 (138).

Inspire for Kempegowda Cup
BENGALURU SELECTIONS
Arjun Mangalolkar-trained Inspire and ridden by Antony Raj S is fancied to win the Kempegowda Cup. The feature event of the winter race run over a distance of seven and half furlongs on Saturday. The first race starts at 2:45 pm.
1. November Plate - 1200M: Jade Mountain 1, Celestria 2, Rocking Star 3.
2. Muthalymaduva Plate - 1600M: Agrador 1, Hyperdrive 2, Mandate 3.
3. V Venugopal Naidu Memorial Trophy - 1100M: Goddess Of War 1, Flaming Sword 2, Ziva 3.
4. Kempegowda Cup - 1500M: Inspire 1, Lux Aeterna 2, Efficacy 3.
5. Chintamani Plate - 1300M: El Alamein 1,D Fronx 2, Invincible 3.
6. Nagarjuna Sagar Plate - 1400M: Yanrick 1, She Rules 2, Feeling Good 3.
Day's best: Agrador. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Heart favoured for feature

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Heart, from the stables of Deepesh Narreddy and ridden by P Trevor, will garner the maximum support in the Calcutta 1000 Guineas, the feature event of the races to be run over a mile on Saturday. The first race starts at 1:30 pm.
1. Cameron Handicap - 1100M: Happy Morning 1, Lineupandcollect 2, Horus The Great 3.
2. Alice Springs Handicap (Div II) - 1600M: Whirlwind 1, Garth 2, No Worry 3.
3. Alice Springs Handicap (Div III) - 1600M: Dusenberg 1, Ksepiman 2, Victorius Omen 3.
4. Romantic Liasion Handicap - 1600M: Main Street 1, Natural Grace 2, Zarak 3.
5. Calcutta 1000 Guineas - 1600M: Heart 1, Eleanora 2, Conjuror 3.
6. Safari Handicap - 1100M: Light The World 1, Tycoonist 2, Salome 3.
Day's best: Dusenberg. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Atiqa continues to turn up the speed

AL AIN (UAE), PTI:

Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir outpaced a battery of world-class male drivers to qualify fourth in the COTFA international karting series, the highest finish for a female in the championship's history. With the series supported by Formula 1 Academy, it was the perfect stage for Atiqa to showcase her rare talent and the 11-year-old did that with an unprecedented fourth place in qualifying of the mini category before finishing in the same position in the final on Day 1.

HOCKEY JUNIOR MEN'S WORLD CUP

India too hot for Chile

Rosan, Dilraj score a brace each as hosts begin their campaign on a high

CHENNAI, PTI

Rosan Khujur and Dilraj Singh scored a brace each as India thrashed Chile 7-0 to open their FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup campaign on a resounding note here on Friday.

After a barren first quarter, Rosan (16th, 21st minutes) scored two field goals, while Dilraj (25th, 34th) also found the net twice. Ajeet Yadav (35th), Anmol Ekka (48th) and skipper Rohit (60th) were the other goal scorers for India.

India will take on Oman in their second Pool B match here on Saturday.

The Indians, ranked second in the Under-21 category, were the dominant side and enjoyed majority of possession in the first quarter but failed to create any clear cut scoring chance.

The Chileans defended stoutly and didn't let Indian forwards to make any impact in the first quarter.

India had a bright chance just before the end of the first quarter when they earned their first penalty corner but skipper Rohit's flick was defended well by the Chileans.

India finally broke the deadlock a minute into the second quarter through Rosan who slammed home from inside the circle after being set up by Manmeet Singh, who collected an ariel ball from deep in front of the D.



Rosan Khujur (centre) celebrates after scoring a goal with his team-mates during India's win over Chile at the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup in Chennai on Friday. HI MEDIA

A minute later, Manmeet squandered a golden chance when his reverse hit went inches wide of the Chile goal.

Rosan found the net again in the 21st minute with some fine stick work, dodging past two defenders and Chile goalkeeper Nicolas Troncoso after receiving a pass from Arshdeep Singh to double India's lead.

The Indians continued their attacking game and secured their second penalty corner in the 25th minute and Dilraj scored from a rebound after the flick was saved by the Chile custodian.

It was complete domination from the Indians in the first

half, especially in the second quarter as play was confined mostly inside Chile's half.

India continued their domination and extended the lead four minutes after the change of ends when Dilraj scored his second goal of the day after receiving a pass from Ankit Pal.

A minute later Ajeet registered his name in the score-sheet, finding the net with a high reverse hit after being fed by Gurjot Singh.

Chile got their first opportunity in the 40th minute in the form of a penalty corner but wasted the chance.

India made the scoreline 6-0 in the 48th minute when Ekka

perfectly converted the home team's third penalty corner.

India had another scoring chance in the 57th minute in the form of another penalty corner but failed to capitalise on the opportunity.

India were awarded a penalty stroke just 49 seconds from the final hooter and skipper Rohit made no mistake from the spot.

Seconds from full time, India earned two consecutive penalty corners but failed to make use of them.

In the first match of the day here, New Zealand beat China 5-3 in Pool C. Meanwhile, two-time champions Argentina defeated Japan 4-1 here.

Results (Pool B): India: 7 (Rosan Khujur 16th, 21st, Dilraj Singh 25th, 34th, Ajeet Yadav 35th, Anmol Ekka 48th, Rohit 60th).



Santiago Nieva

Nieva appointed Indian women's boxing team coach

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former high-performance director of Indian boxing Santiago Nieva has returned to the national setup as the head coach of the women's team.

The Argentine-born Swede, who worked extensively with India's men's squad from 2017 to 2022, oversaw several landmark achievements during his previous tenure, including India's highest-ever participation at the Tokyo Olympics

and two historic medals at the 2019 Men's World Championships.

"Super excited to come back to India. I had five wonderful years here in my previous stint. I am very much looking forward to this next chapter, and hopefully, we can create something big together," Nieva said.

Nieva brings over two decades of elite international coaching experience, having held some of the most influen-

tial high-performance roles in world boxing.

Following his earlier stint with India, he most recently served as National Head Coach and Technical Lead of Boxing Australia's High Performance Unit.

Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh said Santiago's appointment marks a major boost for India's women's programme.

"Santiago's appointment

signals an important step forward for our women's programme. He brings a top-tier blend of technical excellence and international insight that will add tremendous value to the system.

"Our athletes have shown they can rise to the world's toughest platforms, and with Santiago guiding their progression, we are confident of strengthening India's presence and ambition at the world's

biggest stages," Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh said.

Nieva replaces D Chandralal who will continue to be part of the coaching staff.

Indian women boxers have enjoyed a strong run this year, returning with four medals, including two gold from the World Championships, followed by a 10-medal haul at the World Boxing Cup Finals at home.



Mohammed Mustafa

Mustafa wins Jr billiards title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohammed Mustafa scored three wins from as many matches in the semifinal league to emerge champions in the State-ranking junior men billiards tournament on Friday.

Mustafa kick-started his campaign by beating Ridhimann Shashank 406-153, then edged out Mayank Karthik 251-249 in a thriller before downing Karan Seshadri 328-196 to seal the title.

Results (Semifinal league): Mayank Karthik bt Karan Seshadri 222-177; Mohammed Mustafa bt Ridhimann Shashank 406-153; K Seshadri bt R Shashank 189-155; M Mustafa bt M Karthik 251-249; M Karthik bt R Shashank 277-137; M Mustafa bt K Seshadri 228-196. **Final standings:** M Mustafa 1; M Karthik 2; K Seshadri 3; R Shashank 4.

DYES clinch a thriller against BoB

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a contest that went to the wire, DYES, Bangalore scored a narrow 82-81 win over Bank of Baroda in a men's semifinal league match at the State Association Cup Championship basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium courts here on Friday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

While Manoj top-scored for the winners with 23 points, Arvind's 24-point effort for BoB went in vain. **Results: Semifinal league matches:** Men: DYES, Bangalore: 82 (Manoj 23, Bathesh 18) bt Bank of Baroda: 81 (Arvind 24, Aaron 20). HT: 46-40; Young Orion's SC: 72 (Shashank 19, Nathan 13) bt Southern Blues: 53 (Hareesh 9). HT: 36-29. **Women:** Beagles BC: 59 (Sanjana Ramesh 22, Swathi 13) bt Rajmahal BC: 42 (Aadhya 19). HT: 31-26; South Western Railway: 62 (Sruthi A 28, Bhandavya 18) bt Mounts Club: 30 (Niya 9). HT: 35-12; Mounts Club: 68 (Nidhi 32, Hannah 15) bt Rajmahal BC: 61 (Aadhya Aithal 23, Aishwarya 17). HT: 31-34.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058,
LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
(Phone: (080)-22685086, 5047, 5094, 5088, 5087, (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender is invited for the following work:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Contract for Washing & Pressing of Leverages at LEOS Campus & New Guest House, Peenya, Bangalore-58. **NIET No:** CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-07; **Dtd:** 24.11.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 2.35 Lakhs; EMD Rs. : 4,700/-; Period of Completion in months :** 01 Year; **Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date:** 27.11.2025; **Closing Date :** 15.12.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG) URSC, BANGALORE.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1048/2025-26 Dt: 27.11.2025	Rs.77,75,000/-	06-12-2025 upto 5.30 p.m.	08-12-2025 at 12.00 Noon
			Rs.1,55,500/-		
2.	Quality Assurance	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1050/2025-26 Dt: 27.11.2025	Rs.39,65,827/-		
			Rs.80,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/1052/2025-26 Dt: 27.11.2025	Rs.49,02,269/-		
			Rs.98,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Quality Assurance).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/IAPLUR0407125-26

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-7/2025-26/4583 Date : 26/11/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: 1. Dismantling and reconstruction of class room of Govt. Higher Primary School at Gudur SA village in Jewargi Taluka Indent No.20889, 2. Construction of building infrastructure for the Govt minority urdu Lower Primary School at Jeratagi village in Jewargi Taluka Indent No.20905, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB for the year 2024-25**, 3) Amount put to tender : **Indent No. 20889 Rs. 6720492.67, Indent No.20905 Rs. 8402734.55**, 4) Class of Contractor: **Class- III and Above**, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **26-11-2025 to 05-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Indent No.20889 Rs. 1,34,500.00, Indent No.20905 Rs. 1,68,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **26-11-2025 to 05-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **06-12-2025 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **08-12-2025 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/784/KSMC&A/2025-26

ICFRE-INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

(Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
P.O. Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003. Ph: 080-23341731
E-mail: dir_iwst@icfre.org | Website: http://iwst.icfre.gov.in

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR VARIOUS POSTS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up FIVE posts of technician (Pay Matrix Level-3) and ONE post of Forest Guard at ICFRE-Institute of Wood Science & Technology (ICFRE-IWST), Bengaluru.

For details, please visit the IWST/ICFRE websites <http://iwst.icfre.gov.in> and <http://icfre.gov.in>

Sd/- Director.

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL

1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/IND0020 Date: 28.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of 985 Desktop Computers to Tahasil Offices of All District of Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender forms in KPP Portal is **15-12-2025 by 5.30 P.M.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner, Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/4070/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2:Tender-43:2025-26 Dated:- 28.11.2025

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-160 SH Renewals:- (1) Improvements to Road from Ramagiri to Kanivehalli in Holakere Taluk (SH153)(Working Chainage from Km 37.51 to 40.20) (W.I.NO.27720)/call-2 Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-200.00

Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 04-12-2025 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 05-12-2025 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 06-12-2025 Time: 16.15 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 08-12-2025 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/499/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

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FOOD & DRINK Have you tried the one-pot meal, Gumbo?	TRAVEL Nashik is a city of temples, vineyards and natural beauty.	WELLNESS Tips to prevent glaucoma

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KARNATAKA STATE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

Office of the Director & Member Secretary, GPO PB # 5257, M.S. Building Gate IV, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 01.
Ph No: 080-22258988, 22353974, 22353976 Fax:080-22389519
e-mail: mksktppb@karnataka.gov.in website: www.kstpb.dtcp.gov.in

No: KSTPB/01/Tender-vehicles with drivers/2025-26 Date: 29.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

This is to inform that Karnataka State Town Planning Board, invited Tenders from reputed firms for supply of vehicles with drivers on contract basis. Tender notice is published through KPP Portal on 27.11.2025 vide Tender No: **DTCP/2025-26/SE0086/CALL-2**. The complete details of the tender with NIT, terms & conditions etc., can be obtained / downloaded from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Deputy Director, KSTPB, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/4077/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
HUBBALLI-DHARWAD BRTS COMPANY LTD

Ph. No: 0836-2222007/2322700 e-mail:hdbtrtsprojectcell@gmail.com
CIN: U60200KA2012SGC063887

E-Tender notification seeking consultants for maintaining Adaptive Traffic Signals (ATCS)

Tender No. HDBRTS/2025-26/SE0022/Call-02 Date: 28.11.2025

Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd invites consultants for **Comprehensive annual maintenance Contract for Adaptive Traffic Signals installed in Hubballi-Dharwad BRT Corridor (2025-26)**. The eligibility criteria and other necessary details are available in the e-portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home> The interested consultants meeting eligibility criteria may participate in the e-bidding process from **28.11.2025** and the last date to submit the bid is **08.12.2025 till 16:00 HRS.**

Sd/- General Manager (ITS & OPR) Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd., Hubballi.

DIPR/DWD/DISHA/923/2025-26



Yashaswini Ghorpade

Paddler Yashaswini in squad for Mixed Team WC

BENGALURU, DHNS: One of the top paddlers in the country, Karnataka's Yashaswini Ghorpade, was on Friday named in the Indian squad for the upcoming ITTF Mixed Team World Cup to be held from November 30 to December 7 in Chengdu, China.

The 20-year-old from Bengaluru, who recently won bronze at the UTT 4th National Ranking Table Tennis Championships in Panchkula (Haryana), will be part of the four-member women's team spearheaded by Manika Batra. Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh complete the women's squad, while Manav Vikash Thakkar, Manush Utpalbhai Shah, Gnanasekaran Sathiyar, and Payas Jain will form the men's quartet.

India are seeded eighth in the 16-team tournament in which China and Japan are the top two seeds.

India squad: Men: Manav Vikash Thakkar, Manush Utpalbhai Shah, Gnanasekaran Sathiyar, Payas Jain.
Women: Manika Batra, Diya Chitale, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Swastika Ghosh.

IN BRIEF

Mardi stars for KIOSS

► Upendra Amanatya's first minute goal followed by a brace by Raju Mardi in the 6th and 27th minutes helped Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (Bhubaneswar) score a 3-0 win over Loyola High School (Margao, Goa) on Friday, reports DHNS.
Results: Quarterfinal: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (Bhubaneswar): 3 (Upendra Amanatya 1st, Raju Mardi 6th, 27th) bt Loyola High School (Margao, Goa): 0. **Head Start Educational Academy:** 0 lt to Delhi Public School, North: 2 (Vatharath Mishra 13th, 27th); Govt Pottery Town High School: 1 (Md. Ashrif) bt St Joseph's Boys High School: 0; Greenwood High: 2 (Krishang Dutta 20th, Aarush Goyal 36th) bt Parikrma Centre for Learning: 0.
Equality Plate (semifinals): St. Joseph's Boys High School: 1 (Renith Vivian 7th) lt to Loyola High School (Margao, Goa): 2 (Irwin Nitan-iel Falerio 10th, Salesin Nitin Kotharkar 35th); Head Start Educational Academy: 0 bt Parikrma Centre for Learning: 0 (via penalty shootout).

2nd CM Cup in Jan 2026

► The second edition of the Chief Minister's Cup, organised by the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA), will be held from the third week of January at the Bangalore Football Stadium, reports DHNS.
Last date for entry is on or before December 10.
For further information contact contact BK Muniraj 9916474359 or M Sridharan 9448810444.

ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL
EPL: Sunderland vs Bournemouth, Man City vs Leeds United (both 8:30 pm). Everton vs Newcastle (11 pm), Tottenham vs Fulham (1:30 am, Sunday). **LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: RCD Mallorca vs Osasuna (6:30 pm), Levante vs Athletic Bilbao (11 pm), Atletico Madrid vs Real Oviedo (1:30 am, Sunday). **LIVE on FanCode.**

HOCKEY
Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: India vs Canada (11:30 am). **LIVE on FanCode.**

Men's Jr World Cup: Chile vs Switzerland (5:45 pm), India vs Oman (8 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT
Formula 1: Qatar GP (Sprint: 7:30 pm; Qualifying: 11:30 pm). **LIVE on F1TV Pro, FanCode.**

Malolan delighted with flexibility in RCB squad

Coach happy with the buys, confident they'll make a strong impact in WPL

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Having someone like Nadine de Klerk in your squad brings out three things. One, her presence in the batting order provides Royal Challengers Bengaluru with the assurance of runs at a reasonable rate and, in times of a batting malfunction, the ability to weather the storm. Two, someone who could contribute with the ball. And three, an excellent fielding option.

However, the best part for RCB was her price at the Women's Premier League mega auction here in New Delhi: Rs 65 lakh only.

After losing the legendary Sophie Devine to the Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore, the rationale for the acquisition was clearly intent and flexibility. And even though de Klerk might not be a like-for-like for Devine, RCB head coach Malolan Rangarajan thinks she could be the "replacement".

"Sophie Devine is obviously a champion cricketer. Played for us for two years, was a part of our winning team. But in our mind, we have replaced Devine with Nadine (de Klerk), at least for me and our think tank. Very happy with her. While she may bat in a different position, I think the good thing about the squad is that we have flexibility and that's how we want to play," Rangarajan said after the auction.

While flexibility might be one thing, identifying what a player brings to the table and assessing their strengths and weaknesses before voicing their trust in the form of lifting the paddle is where the think



RCB head coach Malolan Rangarajan (centre) believes the squad they've pieced together at the mega auction on Thursday is capable of delivering the title in the WPL next year.

tank's importance lies and it looked like RCB had done their homework.

"We knew how we wanted to play, what set of players we were looking for. What sort of compromise do we make. However, the good thing is that there were no compromises, because we got back similar skills. We wanted to be flexible but without compromising on anything."

It is not only sensible but also understandable that plans can go haywire, given the dynamics of a mega auction and at one point, with only about Rs 2.85 crore in the bank, RCB approached Shikha Pandey for services till Rs 2.2 crore, which to some might have come as a surprise.

While it played out fairly well for RCB in the end by signing

Pooja Vastrakar and Arundhati Reddy, the coach thinks they were ready for the gamble and were clear on what they came shopping for.

"We would have more or less gotten the team. With not being able to acquire Shikha, it meant we were able to get maybe two to three players for the same price. And even if we had got her, we still had a plan, and it was going according to it. So we are pleased with how things have gone. As I said, it is about having options and adapting to the situation," said Rangarajan. "See, we are here to win WPL. And if I have learned one thing, it is that you don't win the WPL in the auction. You certainly stand a chance of losing the WPL in the auction."

The task for Rangarajan and his crew will be to utilise the squad to try and ensure they remain competitive for the two-year cycle. When asked about how the squad is set with two WPLs in a span of 13 to 14 months, the 36-year-old said

that clarity is the most important thing.

"After the retentions, there was a huge delta in the purse among teams. So you had to be very clear. The other thing we did was we had a clear identity of how we want to play -- people like Anya (Shrubsole), RX Murli (Muralidhar) and all our coaches helped a lot with their inputs.

"Talking about our scouting, we have five scouts who are involved in watching games all around. Then we start prioritising players with the money in hand and it goes on."

Rangarajan, who joined RCB (men's side) as the head of the talent scouting wing in 2019, sang Prema Rawat's praises and expects the 24-year-old leg spinner to represent India soon. "We have also acquired Prema Rawat. A very, very talented spinner again. She will go on to play for the country and do very well. Acquiring her for 20 lakhs was a steal and I did not expect that."



Ayush Mhatre

Mhatre to lead India in U-19 Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, PTI: Promising batter Ayush Mhatre was on Friday retained as captain of a 15-member Indian team for the upcoming U-19 Asia Cup in which the focus will be again on teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

The age-group continental tournament will be held in Dubai from December 12-21 in 50-overs format.

Mhatre had also led India during a multi-format tour of Australia in September and October.

Vihaan Malhotra has been appointed as the vice-captain for the tournament which will serve as a preparatory ground for the U-19 World Cup, to be played in Zimbabwe and Namibia in January-February next year.

India will open their campaign against a yet-to-be-confirmed opponent (qualifier) on December 12 before their match against Pakistan on December 14. They will play another qualifier on December 16.

The semifinals are scheduled for December 19 with the final slated two days later on December 21.

India squad: Ayush Mhatre (capt), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra (vice-capt), Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A. Patel, Naman Pushpak, D Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh (subject to fitness), Udhav Mohan, Aaron George.

Standby players: Rahul Kumar, Hemchudeshan J, BK Kishore, Aditya Rawat.

Roy's thunder sinks Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Anukul Roy (in pic) produced a brilliant counter-attacking innings to power Jharkhand to a thrilling two-wicket win over fighting Karnataka in their Elite Group D match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament game in Ahmedabad on Friday.

The 26-year-old all-rounder, joining forces with Virat Singh with Jharkhand in a spot of bother at 38/3 while chasing a tricky target of 158, smashed an unbeaten 58-ball 95 to power his side home with two balls and an equal number of wickets to spare at the Narendra Modi Stadium Ground A.

On a tacky surface, Karnataka batters could never get going with a 37 from skipper Mayank Agarwal and a 32 from the in-form R Smaran being the notable contributions in their total of 157/9 in 20 overs.

After losing opener Devdutt Padikkal and one-dropper Karun Nair inside the Power Play, Karnataka steadied themselves through a 54-run partnership for the third wicket between Agarwal and Smaran. Although the duo didn't bat at breakneck speed, Karnataka looked on course for a strong total when they were out in the middle. But the moment Agarwal was dismissed by Bal Krishna in the 12th over the wheels came off.



Roy shifted with a blistering knock that contained nine boundaries and five sixes.

Karnataka did keep themselves in the contest by picking up regular wickets but Roy's solo act sunk them to defeat.

Elite Group D brief scores: Karnataka: 157/9 in 20 overs (Mayank Agarwal 37, R Smaran 32, Saurabh Shekhar 2-37, Sushant Mishra 3-39, Anukul Roy 2-13) lt to Jharkhand: 158/8 in 19.4 overs (Anukul Roy 95 n.o., Vidyadhar Patil 3-45, Praveen Dubey 2-23) by 2 wickets. Saurashtra: 183/7 in 20 overs (Prerak Mankad 52, Chirag Jani 25, Ruchit Ahir 30 n.o., Rajan Kumar 2-54, J Suchith 3-20) lt to Uttarakhand: 184/4 in 18.1 overs (Kunal Chandel 94, Aanjneya Suryavanshi 73, Chetan Sakariya 2-37) by 6 wickets. Tamil Nadu: 198/7 in 20 overs (Amrit Sathvik 54, Tuskar Rajaheja 72, Simarjeet Singh 2-52, Prince Yadav 3-43) lt to Delhi: 203/4 in 20 overs (Yash Dhull 71, Priyansh Arya 35, Nitish Rana 34, Ayush Badoni 41; Sonu Yadav 2-29) by 6 wickets. Tripura: 169/7 in 20 overs (Hanuma Vihari 36, Sridam Paul 37, Manisankar Mursasingh 40, Ashok Sharma 2-18, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 3-34) lt to Rajasthan: 171/5 in 18.5 overs (Shubham Garwal 50, Kunal Singh Rathore 33; Swapnil Singh 3-42, Vikal Saha 2-27) by 5 wickets.

McLaren dominate Qatar practice

DOHA, AFP: Oscar Piastri rediscovered his form to top the times ahead of McLaren team-mate and title favourite Lando Norris in Friday's opening practice session at the Qatar Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Australian, who led the championship for much of the season until he lost form and consistency, clocked a fastest lap in one minute and 20.924 seconds.

Poonacha wins Aus Open wild card play-off with Thai partner

CHENGDU (CHINA), PTI: India's Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (in pic) earned the biggest breakthrough of his career on Friday, securing a main-draw wild card for the 2026 Australian Open men's doubles after winning the Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoff with Thailand's Pruchya Isaro.

Poonacha and Isaro produced a composed performance throughout the week



and sealed the berth with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Japanese duo Seita Kusuuhara and Katsuki Nakagawa in the final to seal their spot at Melbourne Park.

The victory assures the 30-year-old Indian a Grand Slam main-draw debut, marking a significant milestone for a player who has spent most of his professional journey on the ATP Challenger and ITF circuits.

Messi confirms Hyderabad visit

NEW DELHI, PTI: Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi has confirmed the addition of Hyderabad to his much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour to India 2025' next month, with the Telangana

capital becoming his fourth stopover in the country.

The World Cup-winning captain will be in Hyderabad after the Kolkata leg. He will then proceed to Mumbai and New Delhi.

Crowd trouble mars Villa win

PARIS, AFP

Donyell Malen scored twice as Aston Villa beat Young Boys 2-1 in a Europa League tie marred by crowd trouble on Thursday, while Nottingham Forest eased to victory over Malmo.

Malen nodded hosts Villa in front from a Youri Tielemans cross but was struck on the head while celebrating by an object thrown from the section housing the away supporters.

The Dutch international suffered a small cut but shrugged off the incident and doubled Villa's lead after being teed up by Morgan Rogers just before half-time.

Young Boys fans clashed with police after the goal and captain Loris Benito went over and pleaded with them to settle down as the match was briefly interrupted.

Joel Monteiro pulled one back in the 90th minute for



Donyell Malen (right) scored a brace to star in Aston Villa's win over Young Boys in their Europa League game on Thursday. REUTERS

Young Boys with a thumping finish but Villa secured a fourth win in five games to leave them trailing only Lyon and Midtjylland on goal difference.

Villa are on a run of 10 wins in 12 matches in all competitions after a five-match winless run to start the Premier League season.

"I think we've turned it around quite well and we just have to keep this form and stay humble and work hard," Malen told TNT Sports, insisting he was "fine" after being hit by a plastic cup.

Ryan Yates, Arnaud Kalimundo and Nikola Milenkovic scored as Forest cruised to a

3-0 win over Malmo at the City Ground in a repeat of the 1979 European Cup final.

Yates curled Forest in from before French striker Kalimundo turned in from close range to net his first goal for the club.

Milenkovic sealed a second win in five European outings for Forest on the hour as Sean Dyche's team climbed into 16th place on eight points.

Lyon took over top spot with a 6-0 rout of Maccabi Tel Aviv in Serbia as captain Corentin Tolisso grabbed a hat-trick. Abner Vinicius, Moussa Niakhate and Adam Karabec were also on the scoresheet for the visitors.

Danish side Midtjylland lost their perfect record in the league phase after going down 2-1 away to Serie A leaders Roma. Neil El Aynaoui and Stephan El Shaarawy got the goals for the Italians before Paulinho's consolation effort.

Cummins ruled out of pink-ball Test

SYDNEY, PTI: Australia skipper Pat Cummins was on Friday ruled out of the second Ashes Test as the hosts named an unchanged 14-member squad for the day and night game in Brisbane.

In Cummins' absence, stand-in skipper Steve Smith led Australia to an eight-wicket victory in the first Test as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. The second Test is slated from December 4.

Squad: Steve Smith (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marcus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald and Beau Webster.

Wknd.



The Pink Moon:
This plus-size
boutique gets it
right

FASHION NOTES P03



ADVERTORIAL &
PROMOTIONAL
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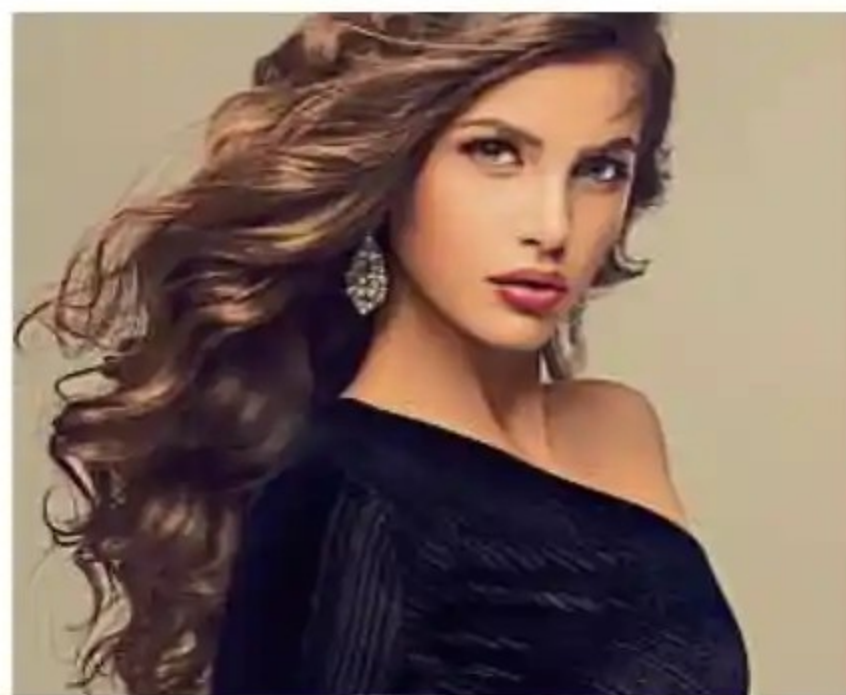
SAY CHEESE!
IT'S
DELIGHTFUL

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ROOM FOR
THOUGHT
AT HOME

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REV UP YOUR
GLOW FOR THE
PARTY SEASON

PAGE 04

Show Buzz | Karishma Kotak

‘There’s an energy in live broadcasting that’s magical...’

She was born in the UK but is connected strongly to her Indian roots. From gracing magazine covers and reality TV screens to making her mark as a sports broadcaster, Karishma Kotak's journey is as dynamic as it is inspiring. A versatile talent who has worn many hats with panache, Karishma is now looking forward to her upcoming film with Bobby Deol.

In a freewheeling chat with **Ikyatha Yerasala** she opens up on her intriguing journey.

How did your UK days shape your personality?
I feel so grateful for that. There's a large and close-knit Asian community there and we hold onto our roots with so much love. Watching Bollywood films and cricket matches made us feel connected to India - it always felt like home wasn't too far away.

Was the transition from UK to Mumbai challenging?
I was born in the UK but went to boarding school in India. My father travelled a lot between South Africa and Mumbai, so our family spent a lot of time there too. After I completed my degree, I decided to pursue modelling in India - I'd already been modelling in the UK, so it felt like a natural next step. It had its challenges, but I never found it too overwhelming, probably because I always felt a deep connection to both countries. India was truly a home away from home for me.

I think what makes people unique is their ability to adapt. The UK and India aren't worlds apart - it's just a seven-hour flight - so I didn't feel like I had to change who I was. Mumbai is such an open, multi-cultural city that it welcomed me wholeheartedly. My biggest challenge wasn't cultural - it was emotional, leaving behind my family and friends and starting from scratch. Back in the UK, I was doing well as a model, but beginning again in India was humbling and taught me so much about resilience and gratitude.

How has the modelling industry evolved since you began?
When I joined the industry, there were some wonderful agencies that supported and guided us. We went to good auditions and met great people. Now, with social media and digital platforms, it's even easier for young talent to be seen and supported. The industry has come such a long way, and I think it's a much more open and encouraging environment today.

You became popular after taking part in Bigg Boss. How did the show change your career trajectory?
Bigg Boss is such a unique platform because people see you every single day and get to know the real you. If audiences connect with you, it can open doors. I think people join for different reasons - some want fame, others want to be understood. For me, authenticity matters most. If you're genuine and kind, people can feel that and that's what stays with them long after the show ends. When I entered the show, my father wasn't well, so it was an emotionally difficult time. I was torn between staying by his side and taking up the opportunity. It wasn't an easy decision, but I'm thankful I did it, as it taught me a lot about myself. That said, it's definitely not for the faint-hearted - being completely cut off from family and the outside world is a really tough experience.

You have successfully transitioned into sports broadcasting. How did that happen?
I was invited to audition for the IPL and that's when everything changed. The IPL was one of the most incredible opportunities of my career. Since then, I've been fortunate to host numerous sports leagues around the



I love spending quiet times with family and friends - being at home, cooking, going to the gym and walking my dog



world and so many inspiring corporate events. I've now done over 60 leagues, met amazing athletes and

travelled to places I could only dream of. I feel so grateful - what a beautiful journey it's been.

As a woman in sports broadcasting, did you face any stereotypes?
It's heartwarming to see so many talented women in sports presenting today - at least five or six that I personally know are doing such brilliant work. When I started, there were just a handful of us, and back then, the focus was often on glamour. But things have evolved so beautifully - today's presenters are confident, knowledgeable and passionate about their sport. I think every industry has its stereotypes and challenges, but I've been lucky to work with people who value professionalism.

You've worn many hats. What role feels the most authentic to you?
I absolutely love being on stage - whether it's hosting a live event, travelling to new cities or connecting with an audience in real time. There's an energy in live broadcasting that's magical. It keeps me alive and excited. I hope I can continue doing this for as long as possible - it brings me so much joy.

How do you like to spend your time when not working?
Deep down, I'm a total homebody. I love spending quiet time with my family and friends, being at home, cooking, cleaning, going to the gym and walking my dog. Those are the moments that bring me peace. I don't go out much - I think I'm far more introverted than people might imagine and I'm perfectly content with that.

What are your upcoming projects?
I'm looking forward to my film *Shlok* with Bobby Deol. It's something very close to my heart. I also have three leagues lined up in the next couple of months, so it's going to be busy but exciting.

Ignoring hypertension for long can be fatal

Hypertension left unmanaged will lead to lethal conditions such as aortic aneurysm and aortic dissection. **Dr Krishna Chaitanya**, Lead Consultant - Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, and **Dr Arul Dominic Furtado**, Senior Consultant - Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, throw light on the threat and how it is managed at **Aster CMI Hospital**



Dr Arul Dominic Furtado

For most Indians, sudden chest pain triggers a fear - heart attack. But behind a large number of unexplained, unexpected deaths are two equally lethal culprits - aortic aneurysm and aortic dissection. These conditions, though far less discussed, can turn catastrophic within minutes. And what makes them especially dangerous is that they often hide in the shadows, developing quietly until a life-threatening emergency unfolds.

Hidden threat
The aorta, the body's largest artery, carries blood from the heart to all organs. When its wall weakens and swells out, it forms an aneurysm. When the layers of the wall tear apart, it results in a dissection. Both are medical emergencies that demand immediate, expert-driven intervention.

What makes them so dangerous is their subtlety. Many people with an aortic dissection walk into emergency department alert and stable, but their window for survival is extremely narrow - a matter of hours, sometimes minutes. High blood pressure - often

uncontrolled - remains the main cause behind these emergencies, compounded by smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol and genetic predisposition.

Chest pain isn't always a heart attack
A major challenge is wrong diagnosis. In India, chest pain is almost automatically assumed to be cardiac. While this is common and reasonable, it can also be misleading.

If a person's ECG is normal and heart attack is ruled out, the evaluation often stops there, and that's where lives are lost. Persisting chest or back pain, especially when it radiates to the abdomen or limbs, may actually be pointing to an aortic dissection. Weakness, numbness or sudden limb pain must never be ignored.

Many elderly people who collapse suddenly at home are presumed to have died from a heart attack. Research and clinical experience indicate that a significant number might actually be due to previously undiagnosed aortic dissection or ruptured aneurysm.

Growing lifestyle disease
Aortic emergencies are more

common in India due to the rising rates of hypertension and lifestyle-driven disorders. Dissections are seen in younger patients too - 40s and even late 30s - largely because of uncontrolled hypertension and stress-driven lifestyles. Annual blood pressure check and routine health evaluation, especially for anyone with a family history of aneurysm, sudden death or genetic conditions such as Marfan Syndrome is crucial.

Revolutionising treatment at Aster CMI Hospital

Just a decade ago, aortic surgery meant an open chest or abdominal surgery - complex, high risk and unsuitable for older patients. Today, the landscape has changed.

Aster CMI Hospital is one of the few centres in India offering advanced endovascular and hybrid aortic procedures, including stent graft repair done through a tiny groin incision; fenestrated EVAR (FEVAR) for complex aneurysms involving branches supplying kidneys, intestines and liver; and Frozen Elephant Trunk (FET) procedure for acute Type A dissection.

These minimally-invasive



Dr Krishna Chaitanya

options save patients who cannot tolerate open surgery. With shorter recovery time, lesser blood loss, reduced ICU stay and excellent long-term results, endovascular procedure has become a game-changer.

Multi-disciplinary expertise at Aster CMI Hospital
An aortic emergency demands expertise across multiple specialties. At Aster CMI Hospital, a dedicated aortic programme brings together vascular surgeons, cardiovascular surgeons, cardiologists, radiologists, anaesthesiologists and ICU specialists.

This coordinated approach ensures rapid diagnosis, combined decision-making and customised treatment - the three elements crucial in a time-sensitive aortic emergency. When multiple specialists evaluate a patient simultaneously, the chance of survival rises dramatically. Advanced imaging, round-the-clock surgical readiness and access to customised stent grafts place Aster CMI Hospital among the country's leading centres for aortic care.

Never ignore signals

High blood pressure is often dismissed as a simple number. But left unchecked, it quietly weakens the body's most important artery, setting the stage for disaster.

- Check your blood pressure regularly
- Control cholesterol, sugar and weight
- Never ignore persistent chest or back pain
- Seek immediate care for sudden limb weakness or numbness
- Undergo screening if you have a family history of aneurysm

With timely diagnosis and advanced treatment, most aortic catastrophes are preventable and survivable. Aortic disease doesn't give second chance - awareness does.

Pink blush for winter glow

Winter make-up this year is all about natural-looking radiance and leading that trend is the shiny pink blush stick which acts as part blush and part highlighter. This multi-use stick has become a favourite among beauty influencers and make-up artists because it delivers a natural winter flush with a soft, dewy glow, all in one swipe.

Unlike powder formulae that cling to dry patches, creamy blush sticks melt comfortably into the skin, making them ideal for colder months. The pink tint adds a fresh, youthful warmth to dull winter complexions, while the built-in sheen acts like a

subtle highlighter, catching the light on the cheekbone without looking glittery or overwhelming.

The best part? It's incredibly easy to use. Just swipe the product on the apples of your cheeks, blend upwards with your fingertips, and tap a little onto the high points of your face - no brushes needed. Paired with satin skin, glossy lips and soft brown eyes, it creates a winter look that feels naturally luminous.

On busy mornings, at post-work events, or even winter brunches, this shiny pink blush-highlighter stick is the quickest way to revive your face and keep your glow intact.



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SALE UP TO 40% OFF

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Exclusive range of salwar suit pieces

Prema Chandra Kalyana Mahal,
No-264/266, T.Mariyappa Road, 2nd-Block,
Near Ashok Pillar, **Jaya Nagar,** Bangalore – 560011.

Five “O” Gallery, # 51, 17th Cross, M.C.Road,
Next to Indraprasth Hotel, **Vijaynagar,**
Bangalore – 560040.

Sri Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa,
18, Main Road, Ideal Homes Township,
Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bangalore – 560098.

Ramana Maharshi Heritage Centre,
Post Office Road, Near Food World,
Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore – 560094.

TIME : 10AM TO 8PM (MONDAY TO SUNDAY)

Consult a qualified dietician on the varieties and quantity of cheese you should consume daily

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GOODNESS OF CHEESE

It's advisable to include cheese in your meal plans. Cheese is known to be high in calcium and phosphorus - both minerals help in strengthening your bones and teeth. They can help in preventing osteoporosis later in life. Cheese also contains protein that helps in muscle growth.



PICK YOUR VARIETY

Cheese, when consumed in moderation along with a balanced diet, acts as a nutrition supplement. It confers several health benefits as it is a good source of both protein and calcium. However, some varieties are rich in fat and sodium. Choose ones that are not highly processed and keep track of how much you consume.



New breed of cheesemakers

Across India, a new wave of artisans is bringing modern imagination to this age-old craft. India now produces very good quality buffalo milk that is needed for making good cheese.

Cheese is being made without rennet, using microbial rennet or acid, some even preferring the softer versions. Some are infusing cheese wheels with turmeric, pepper, chilli flakes, vanilla or even lavender. Others are hand-crafting European classics - Gouda, Burrata, Cheddar - and giving them quiet, local twists. You might find a cheese rolled in caramelised hazelnuts or feta crusted with black pepper straight from an Indian farm.

Say cheese!

India's cheese story is being rewritten in cafes and kitchens by a generation that's exposed to diverse flavours while appreciating local food, says Swatee Jog



When Belagavi-based Dr Varsha Sathe invited her close friends

and well-wishers for the inauguration of her venture, she had one request for the brunch menu - it must contain cheeses. So, there it was, proudly finding place on the grazing board - wedges of different kinds of cheese mingling with toasts, crackers and fruits. The guests were seen enjoying the cheese as if it was the main dish!

If you feel cheese is a Western delicacy, you're in for a surprise. India's story of its own cheese lived quietly in its corners for Centuries - in monastery kitchens of the Himalayas and in small pockets of Bengal shaped by old trade winds, for example. These cheeses weren't photographed, paired or spoken about on food blogs. They simply existed, woven into local meals and memories.

Today, these cherished flavours are finding a new voice, thanks to a generation that is keen to try and appreciates indigenous foods and is exposed to diverse flavours. In gourmet cafes, in weekend house parties, and in home kitchens where curiosity is rewriting the menu, India is rediscovering its traditional cheeses - while also creating entirely new ones.

Why just foods? Indian artisanal cheese is being paired with cocktails too. You can pair whisky with brie, for example, as the cheese's richness complements the drink's notes. The umami-rich taste of Parmesan cheese goes well with brandy's fruity and rich flavours.

Raspberry, passion fruit or lime sorbet pairs well with cheese from goat's milk while intensely flavoured drinks that contain chilli and ginger match perfectly



Cheese with a story to tell

Cheese is slowly becoming a social storyteller in India. Young hosts curate grazing boards with Bandel, Kalari and Paneer from Indian farms. Home cooks are learning from online communities - swapping recipes, sharing photos and comparing textures. Chefs are aging cheeses in banana or turmeric leaves. They love pairing Indian cheeses with local ingredients.

Smoked Bandel is paired with Gondhoraj lime or a tangy tamarind chutney. Kalimpong cheese is paired with roasted figs and Kalari with Kashmiri garlic chutney or even roasted papad and murukku. Cheese from goat's milk and smoked bamboo shoot chutney make a great pair.

Some popular desi varieties

Bandel, a salty, punchy cheese from Bengal - whether fresh or smoked - tastes heavenly and is still made much like it was Centuries ago. You can find Chhurpi, the Himalayan variant made from yak milk. Soft and tangy when stirred into curries, or rock-hard which is when it can be chewed for hours by trekkers



and shepherds, it tells the story of a region shaped by altitude.

In the misty hills of Kalimpong, a semi-hard cheese emerged - mild, nutty and clean - developed by the early Swiss missionaries. And in Kashmir, the famous Kalari - stretchy and dense - sizzles on street pans until it turns crisp on the outside and molten inside, earning its title as the 'mozzarella of the mountains'.

Then there is Topli nu Paneer, a Parsi treasure - silky, wobbly like custard and set inside leaf baskets (topli) - that leaves behind a faint aroma of earth and tradition. These cheeses speak softly, but their stories travel far.



Raise a toast

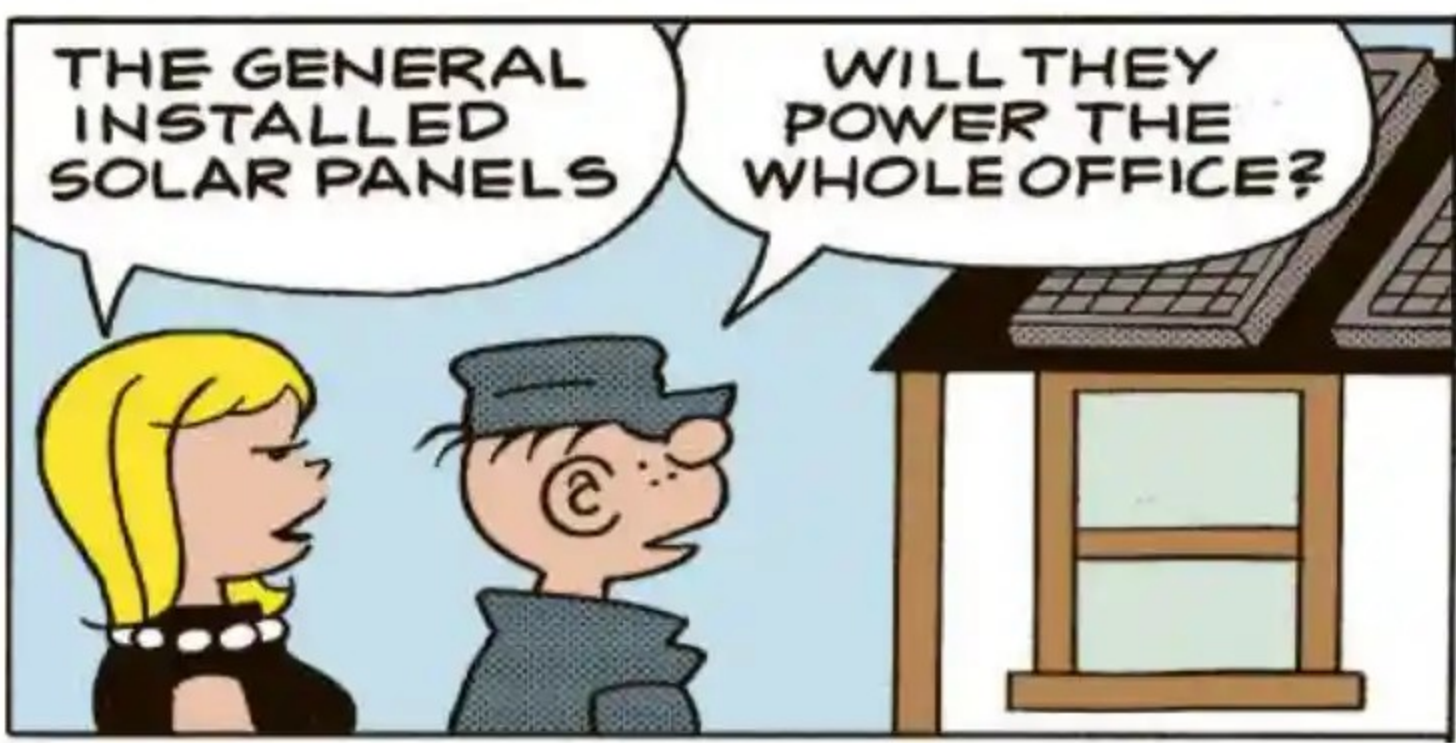
note-to-note with blue cheeses. For that desi twist, pair Aam Panna with sweet, matured cheddar cheese. Experiment further by adding a kick of flavour with spices like pepper, chaat masala or black salt to mild cheeses paired with softer drinks like Nimbu Paani.

Even globally, there is curiosity. Chefs abroad are discovering India's regional cheeses - not as substitutes, but as flavours worth celebrating for their own identity.



LEISURE

Beetle Bailey



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEUAS
WRHLI
PORUTO
DEAROF

Answers: SAUTE, WHIRL, UPROOT, FEDORA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

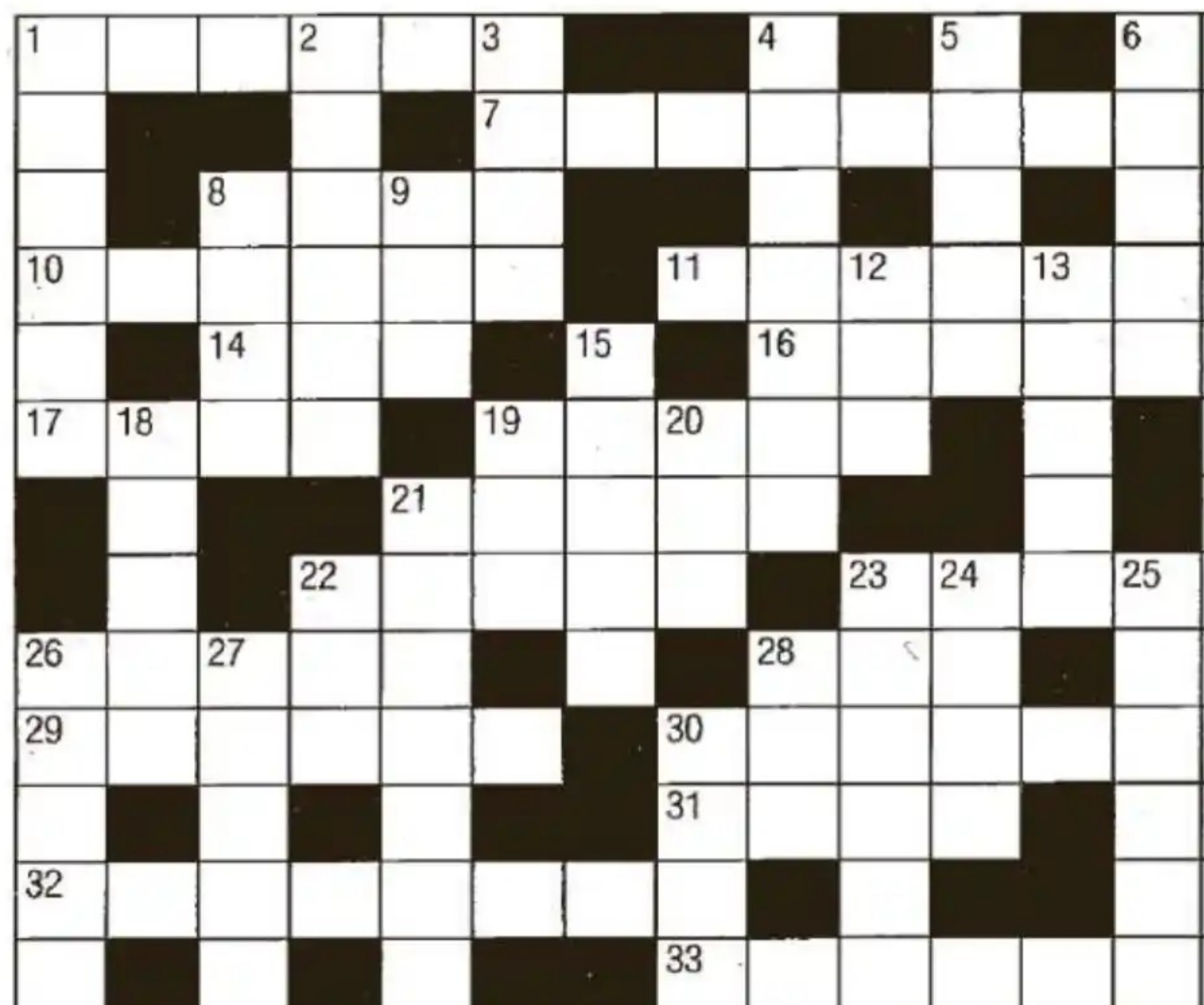


HITORI-124

3	5	1	3	7	1	4	1
8	4	7	8	1	3	5	4
6	8	1	5	3	4	7	3
2	3	4	1	8	7	3	5
5	6	1	8	2	7	1	3
1	2	5	1	3	7	8	6
3	3	1	7	3	8	2	3
4	3	3	2	5	1	6	8

SOLUTION for HITORI-124 To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 125



- ACROSS
1 Hesitates to believe (6)
7 Finland's capital (8)
8 Augur (4)
10 Overseas (6)
11 Leg bone (6)
14 Girl's name (3)
16 Measuring stick (5)
17 Cooking vessels (4)
19 Timorous (5)
21 Group of witches (5)
22 Senior member (5)
23 Go up (4)
26 Seminar (5)
28 Rowing blade (3)
29 Foreign language (6)
30 Prance (6)
31 Related by blood (4)
32 Spice (8)
33 Dozen (6)
DOWN
1 Abscond (6)
2 Besoms (6)
3 Cast off (4)
4 Headache tablet (7)
5 Make void (5)
6 Cheroot e.g. (5)
8 Grain husks (4)
9 24 hours (3)
12 Unopened flower (3)
13 Jumps vigorously (5)
15 Frogman (5)
18 Detest vehemently (5)
19 Plaything (3)
20 Blokes (3)
21 Causing laughter (7)
22 Give a title to (3)
23 Deep narrow gauge (6)
24 Press (4)
25 Complete (6)
26 Ludicrous situation (5)
27 Showery (5)
28 Tree (3)
30 Bevel (4)

- ACROSS
29 How soldiers march, on foot (6)
30 Apply again after a time (6)
31 A divorcee takes it on the way out (4)
32 Obtained from the producer (8)
33 Not much can be in an enclosure! (6)
DOWN
1 Father, running through London (6)
2 Tied up at Greenwich or in the Dome, possibly (6)
3 Chap, shall we say? (4)
4 Wherein workers are not keen on cold refreshment? (7)
5 A better beak? (5)
6 A well-known J.P. (5)
8 One growing in the family for generations? (4)
9 Has it no right to be negative? (3)
12 She's so good, none can imitate her (3)
13 County one can possibly slog around (5)
15 It's all very fine to accept ties as payments! (5)
18 If you want to get the bird, don't put her off! (5)
19 A lot of money for a snack! (3)
20 They chase girls for some time, normally (3)
21 To conceal a love for us is certainly not nice (7)
22 He's got the knack (3)
23 She sorts out aliens (6)
24 That sought by certain modern missiles? (4)
25 Riches loaned in extremes of penury (6)
26 A bit of a beast (5)
27 Villa site (5)
28 The way certain counties finish makes the difference (3)
30 Leftists in pocket, perhaps? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 125
ACROSS: 1. Doubts 2. Heir 3. Bode 4. Abroad 5. Fines 6. No-R 7. Dyer 8. Bran 9. Day 10. Dismal 11. Dismal 12. Dismal 13. Dismal 14. Dismal 15. Dismal 16. Dismal 17. Dismal 18. Dismal 19. Dismal 20. Dismal 21. Dismal 22. Dismal 23. Dismal 24. Dismal 25. Dismal 26. Dismal 27. Dismal 28. Dismal 29. Dismal 30. Dismal 31. Dismal 32. Dismal 33. Dismal
DOWN: 1. Dismal 2. Dismal 3. Dismal 4. Dismal 5. Dismal 6. Dismal 7. Dismal 8. Dismal 9. Dismal 10. Dismal 11. Dismal 12. Dismal 13. Dismal 14. Dismal 15. Dismal 16. Dismal 17. Dismal 18. Dismal 19. Dismal 20. Dismal 21. Dismal 22. Dismal 23. Dismal 24. Dismal 25. Dismal 26. Dismal 27. Dismal 28. Dismal 29. Dismal 30. Dismal 31. Dismal 32. Dismal 33. Dismal

DH
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Wknd.

STYLE

WEEKEND
LIFESTYLE
FEATURE

HIGH IN ENERGY

Do the winter mornings make you low in energy? Get a daily dose of avocado, nuts, seeds, olive oil and coconut milk. They contain healthy fat that helps the body maintain warmth. You can include them in curries and side dishes. Some nuts make for an excellent snack between meals.



IN HOT SOUP

There's nothing like a bowl of hot soup on a cold winter evening. Soups help you beat the cold on the one hand and add the hydration you need on the other. Creamy tomato soup is an all-time favourite in the winter season. Hot herbal tea also does it. Tea infused with a spice is even better.



Wash your hands with soap in running water often to keep winter infections away

WINTER WISE

Winter
Wise

Spice it up



The cold days are here. It's the right time to get more spices into your daily diet. Include spices such as cinnamon, ginger, turmeric, cumin, clove and cardamom in your daily cooking. These spices improve your blood circulation and help you beat the chill. You can add them in your soups and curries.

Go high on
protein



Foods that take more time to digest keep you full longer. This is believed to help in maintaining your body's warmth. Chickpea, lentil, kidney bean and urad dal are good in winter. You can include them in daily foods such as curry and sambar.



THE PINK MOON
This plus-size boutique gets it right

If you've walked into a store excited to shop, only to discover your size doesn't exist, Bengaluru's latest plus-size boutique, The Pink Moon, will feel like a breath of fresh air.

After eight years of running The Pink Moon online, founder Divya Goenka knew it was time for a shift. "Not everyone is comfortable buying online. Many want to feel the fabric, try the fit and then purchase," she says. With a loyal customer base and a refined product range, opening an offline store felt like the natural next step. Today, The Pink Moon's first physical space brings size-inclusive, trend-forward fashion to Bengaluru.

The Pink Moon caters from 2XL to 6XL, with custom pieces available up to 8XL, but the brand's inclusivity goes far deeper than numbers. Divya and her team constantly speak to customers to understand their lifestyles and preferences.

"There are many different options for plus size customers to choose from - clothes that are trendy, classic or travel-friendly. We have something for everyone - working professionals, students, socialites and mothers", Divya says. For shoppers who need something more specific,

Fashion
Notes

the boutique also offers customised lengths, fits, sleeves and silhouettes. The prices start from just Rs 999.

The Pink Moon's racks are filled with clothes that

prioritise comfort, flattering silhouettes and versatile styling. You can choose from festive jacquard dresses, A-line cotton dresses in multiple colours, soft denim-look tunics for office wear, bodycon dresses for nights out, workwear essentials - vertical-stripe shirts, Korean pants, long shirts, and blazers, satin skirts and tops, jersey co-ords, long shirt dresses, and flare dresses. The store also has accessories - adjustable belts that fit any waist and a curated line of everyday handbags.

The philosophy of the brand is simple - fashion in all sizes is normal. Divya encourages women to stop blaming themselves for not fitting into conventional sizing. "If you can't find something you love in your size, we as the fashion industry have failed", she says. The Pink Moon aims to make shopping joyful, not a struggle.

The Pink Moon is more than a boutique - it's a space where women can explore fashion without compromise.

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WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

DON'T SKIP WORKING-OUT

Exercise daily and maintain an active lifestyle. Though it's tempting to sleep an extra hour and skip the regular morning work-out, exercise is crucial throughout this season. A rigorous daily regimen of weights combined with cardio and stretches will prevent the seasonal weight gain and keep your joints from stiffening.



STRETCHES PREVENT INJURY

It's important to ensure an extra few minutes of warm-up in this season. The cold weather tightens your muscles making them prone to tears and catches. Sudden movements in the gym with weights without adequate warm-up is a strict no-no. Stretches are vital for safe exercising.



Winter Care

Prioritise nutrition

A healthy diet is critical to beat the seasonal infections through the winter. You need to make sure you are getting the Vitamin A and Vitamin C you need to strengthen your immune system. Seasonal vegetables and citrus fruits give you the nutrients you need for strong immunity. Make them a part of your daily diet.



MAINTAIN HYDRATION

Even though you don't feel the need for fluids in the winter as you do in summer, it is vital to stay well-hydrated. Go for warm fluids. Herbal teas are an excellent choice. They help you detox as well as get the fluid content you need. Adequate hydration is good for your skin health too.



GET SOME SUN

You need to go out in the morning sun daily to ensure you get the Vitamin D intake you need. Also, you need to consume a healthy dose of foods rich in Vitamin D. If you aren't getting the sunlight you need in the mornings, increase consumption of foods such as egg and fortified milk. Consult a dietitian for supplements if you need them.



Limit sugar

This is the season when you crave for sweet delights. Limit their consumption and pick healthy foods instead. Warm, fresh-cooked foods are better than calorie-laden processed snacks. A bowl of nuts is a great snack between meals this season.



HEALTHY HERBS

Go for immunity boosters you find in your kitchen. Ginger, turmeric and garlic have medicinal properties. Include them in your meal plan daily. Warm milk with turmeric has healing properties and gives you the immunity boost you need to fight the summer sniffles. It's a great early morning drink.



Rev up your glow for the party season

Shilpi Madan explains how you can beat the impact of make-up on your skin

Skin Care

The consistent application of make-up and wearing accessories leaves your skin feeling perhaps a little tired during the year-end party season. Rev up your glow by simplifying your skincare routine. Skin streaming brings in a simple skin care routine to replenish your cells and make you sparkle.

Celebrate CTM
Always remove your make-up before you sleep. The cleanse, tone and moisturise (CTM) routine works beautifully instead of slugging it out with endless serums.

Make sure the products you use are powered with Vitamin C. A good sunscreen with SPF of over 50 is a permanent warrior in your vanity caddy in India. So, make use of it at least twice a day, whether you are out in the sun or not, and irrespective of whether it's raining.

Night routine
An under-eye cream works beautifully in zapping away those dark shadows below the eyes. Remember, the physiological ageing of the skin commences at 25 years. Make way for retinol-backed overnight creams. Ensure you apply the product gently, using the ring finger to spread the formulations effectively in the area around your eyes.

Multi-taskers
Cosmetics with sunscreen do not

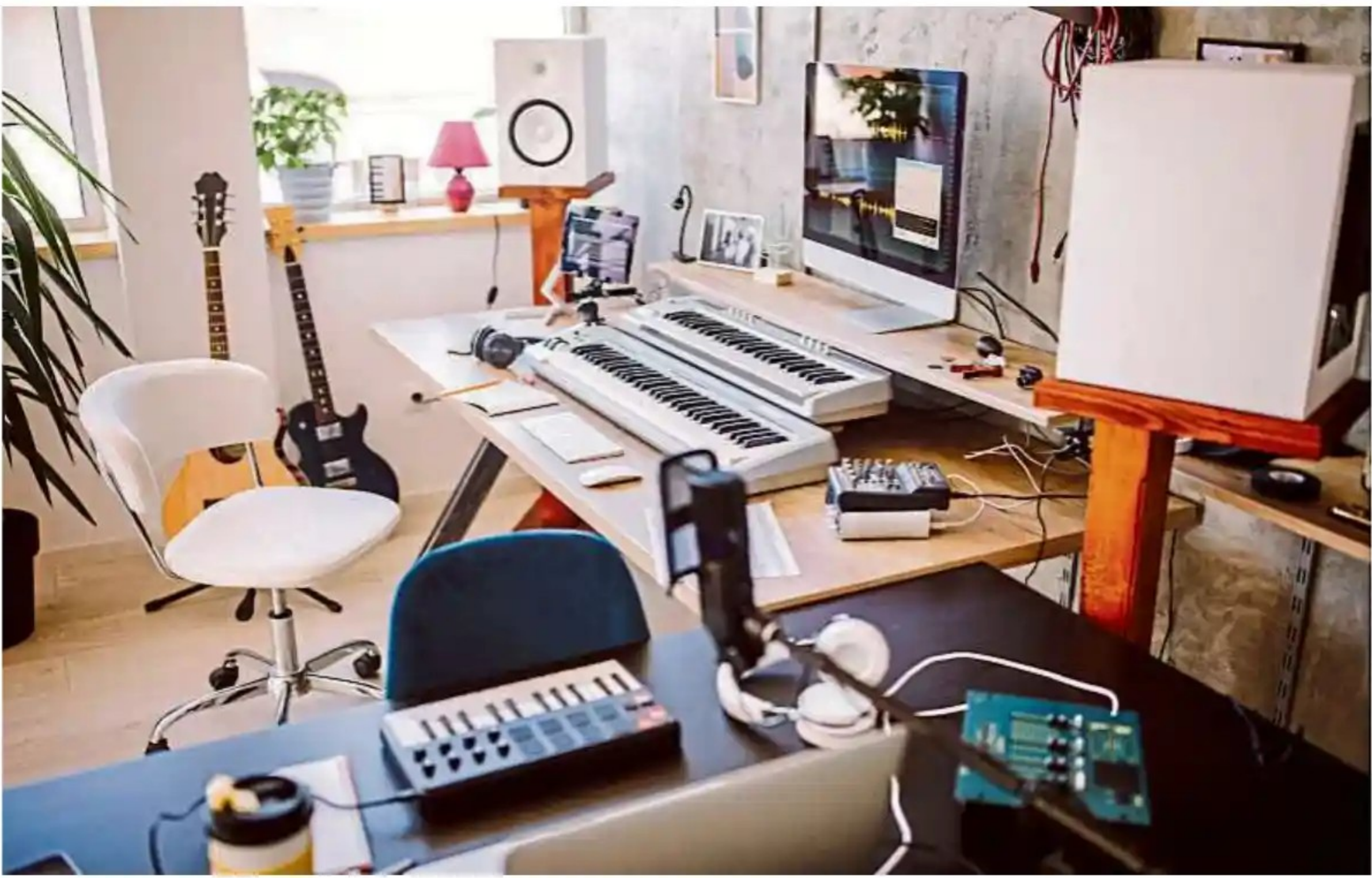
replace the use of a sunscreen. But a hydrating moisturiser works well in making your skin look fresh and supple. Look for formulations that bring in antioxidants.

Tinted sunscreens replace the use of a BB cream. Make use of a lightweight blush-on, and subtle lip balm and gloss. Avoid cream-based applications in make-up as they tend to weigh down on the skin.

Get masked
Nothing succeeds like a good mask twice a week. Perk up your skin with a good papaya mask for a super after-shine, or a serum-lidded sheet mask for nourishing with care. A kitchen whisk with gram flour, milk and rose water with a dot of turmeric works like a charm. Avoid using scrubs on your face. Use only on the T-zone if it is a mild scrub.

Room for thought

Jayanthi Madhukar has some tips to help you set up a home studio – your 'very own' space



Home Front

In a spacious home, where the possibilities include a den, library or lounge, why not consider crafting your very own studio? A studio is, at its essence, a space that adapts to your needs -whether as a workspace, creative retreat or simply a place to unwind. Unlike traditional rooms with fixed purposes, a studio offers flexibility. It is typically a self-contained, multi-functional space, and carving one out within your home gives you an exclusive zone to call your own.

Right space
Begin by identifying a suitable location, ideally somewhere that offers a degree of privacy. A separate entrance or exit, if available, can be advantageous, especially if you plan to use the studio as a semi-professional office. Spare bedrooms, basements or attics are natural candidates. A large garage, with a bit of re-imagining, can serve equally well. The key is to select a space removed from the high-traffic zones of the house, such as the kitchen or dining room, to ensure quiet and focus.

Define its purpose
Once you have earmarked the space, consider its intended function. A budding musician might require a practice room, an artist would need a haven for creation and a designer may just be looking for a contemplative workshop. The use will dictate the design. This is not a one-size-fits-all space but rather, it must serve you.

Light matters
Lighting is crucial. Go for illumination that is bright but gentle on the eyes. Harsh recessed lighting may be excessive, particularly if it requires structural modifications. For artists, natural light is paramount so seek out north-facing windows or install north-facing ventilators that allow bright, diffused light. Where natural light falls short, supplement with daylight-balanced artificial

lighting with a high colour rendering index, crucial for accurate colour perception. For all studio work, position lighting to avoid casting shadows on your work surface, based on whether you are right or left-handed.

Workspace essentials
Your studio's functionality hinges on its furnishings. A generous worktable, such as a drafting or an artist's table, is indispensable for most creative tasks. For those using the space for sewing, position the machine near a window to allow for light and long-range viewing, both of which help reduce eye strain.

If you are a fitness enthusiast, this is the space that will have all the equipment you need to work-out or even stream fitness videos. An influencer could create a studio as a space for streaming podcasts or a passion like cooking or DIY crafts.

Storage with intention
Focus on quality storage if you wish to have a clutter-free studio. From specific storage units to hold paints or any accessories to voluminous storage to store artworks or finished products, account for space to create organised storage. Rolling carts and wall-mounted shelves and cabinets are ways to maximise space.

Sound considerations
If your studio will serve as a music room, acoustics must take precedence. Begin simply, prioritising essential equipment such as a computer, digital audio workstation, audio interface and monitors. A studio for music or podcasts requires soundproofing and temperature control. Avoid rooms with low ceilings, which can compromise both sound quality and comfort.

Finishing touches
Finally, make the studio your own. Introduce calming elements like plants, collectibles or art you love, to inspire creativity and comfort. Built-in bookshelves or alcoves can display beloved books or cherished objects, enriching the space with personal meaning.

Ring in the fun

With thoughtful preparation, your year-end gatherings can feel effortless, leaving you free to celebrate, clink glasses and get ready to step into the New Year with joy, says Jayanthi Madhukar

Party Time

Truth be told, planning a party is rarely as much fun as attending one. But we have made it easier for those wishing to host a year-end celebration to ring out the old and welcome the new with cheer. Here is a step-by-step guide to help you plan.

It's in the timing
This is the time of the year to start reaching out to friends and family on their year-end plans before finalising a date. Draft a tentative guest list and

start making calls or sending messages to check availability. There will likely be a day and time when most people are free so mark that for your gathering. In the age of e-invites, design an invitation that captures the mood of the evening and send it by email or message.

Choose a theme
A defined theme makes planning easier and the party more memorable. What ambience do you want? A sparkly disco night, for instance, can guide your decor, attire, music and menu. Once you decide whether the event will be unique, traditional or delightfully eclectic, stick with that vision. When the theme is reinforced across decor, clothes and food, it becomes in-



teresting and quite magical.

Set a budget
Before the excitement of planning takes over, decide how much you would like to spend. Factor in food, drinks, decorations and even small extras such as ice, napkins and so on. A clear budget helps you make creative choices and ensures you don't overspend in the festive spirit.

Prepare in advance
Decorate the house a day ahead, set

out cutlery and crockery, and prep the food you intend to serve. For larger groups, enlist a few extra hands to help. Opt for a menu that can be cooked in advance and reheated easily. Finger foods and cocktail snacks are stress-free options, keeping guests happy and you unflustered. As for beverages, premix what you can and keep them chilled in pitchers at a dedicated counter. A single signature drink can simplify things further, saving you from taking endless requests.

The idea is to keep almost everything ready and at the time of the party all you need to do is 'bring it alive with food and drinks'.

Plan space and flow
Think about how guests will move through your home. Arrange furniture so people can mingle easily between food, seating and dance areas. Keep snacks and beverages accessible from more than one spot, preventing traffic jams around a single table.

Set the scene
Once your theme is chosen, extend it to the decor. Pick a primary colour that ties everything together and use fabric, paper streamers, balloons or flowers to transform your space. Affordable decor touches like string lights, paper lanterns, candles and bottle centrepieces, which are basically glass bottles filled with fairy lights, add instant charm.

Music and games
While music often fades into the background once a party is in full swing, it sets the tone early on. Prepare a playlist in advance to establish a festive mood or spark conversation. Look for fun party games. Some games will instantly lighten up the mood so ask for recommendations if needed. Select games which are easy to understand and fun to play.

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